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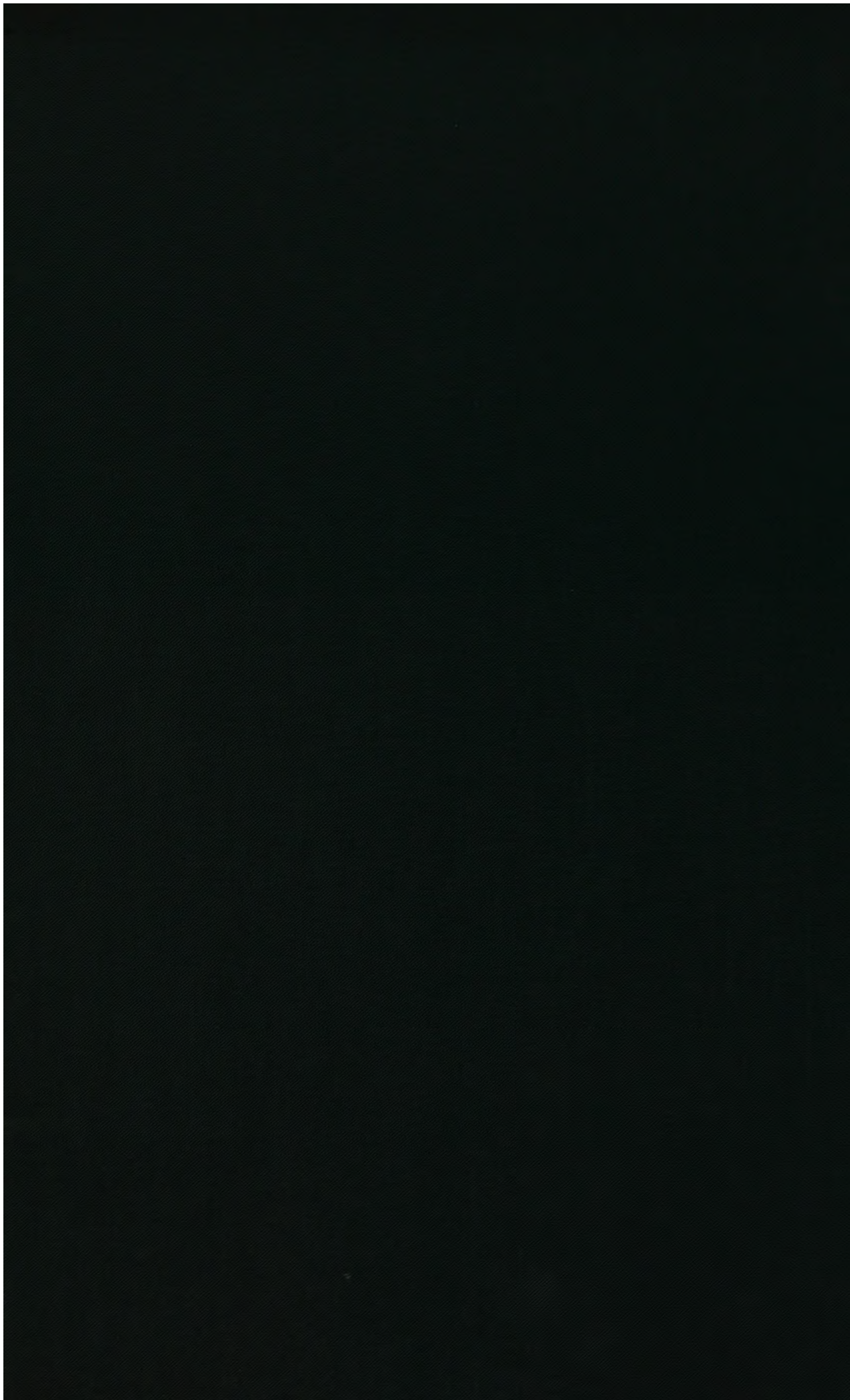
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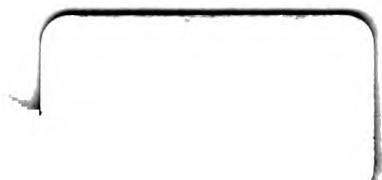


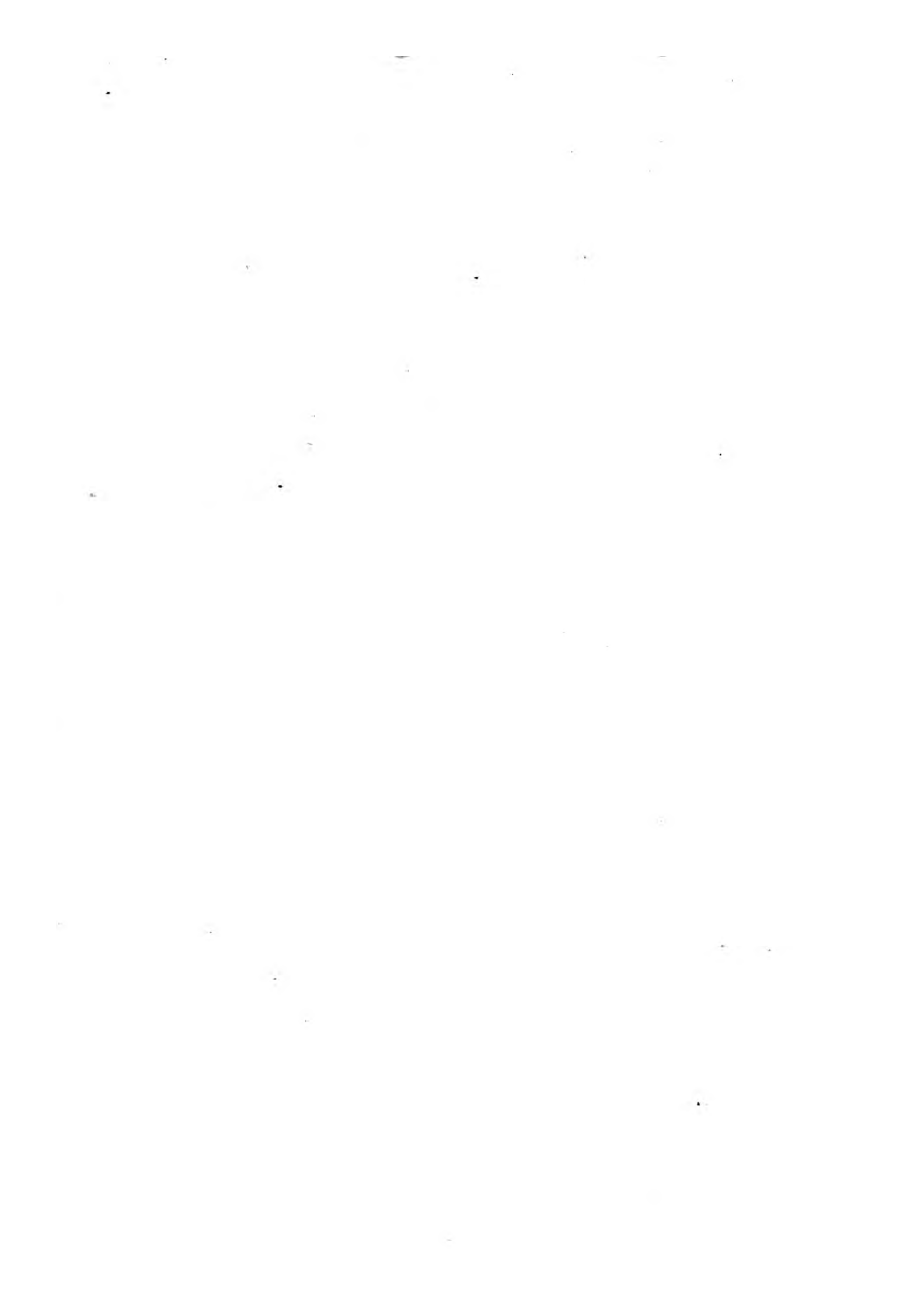
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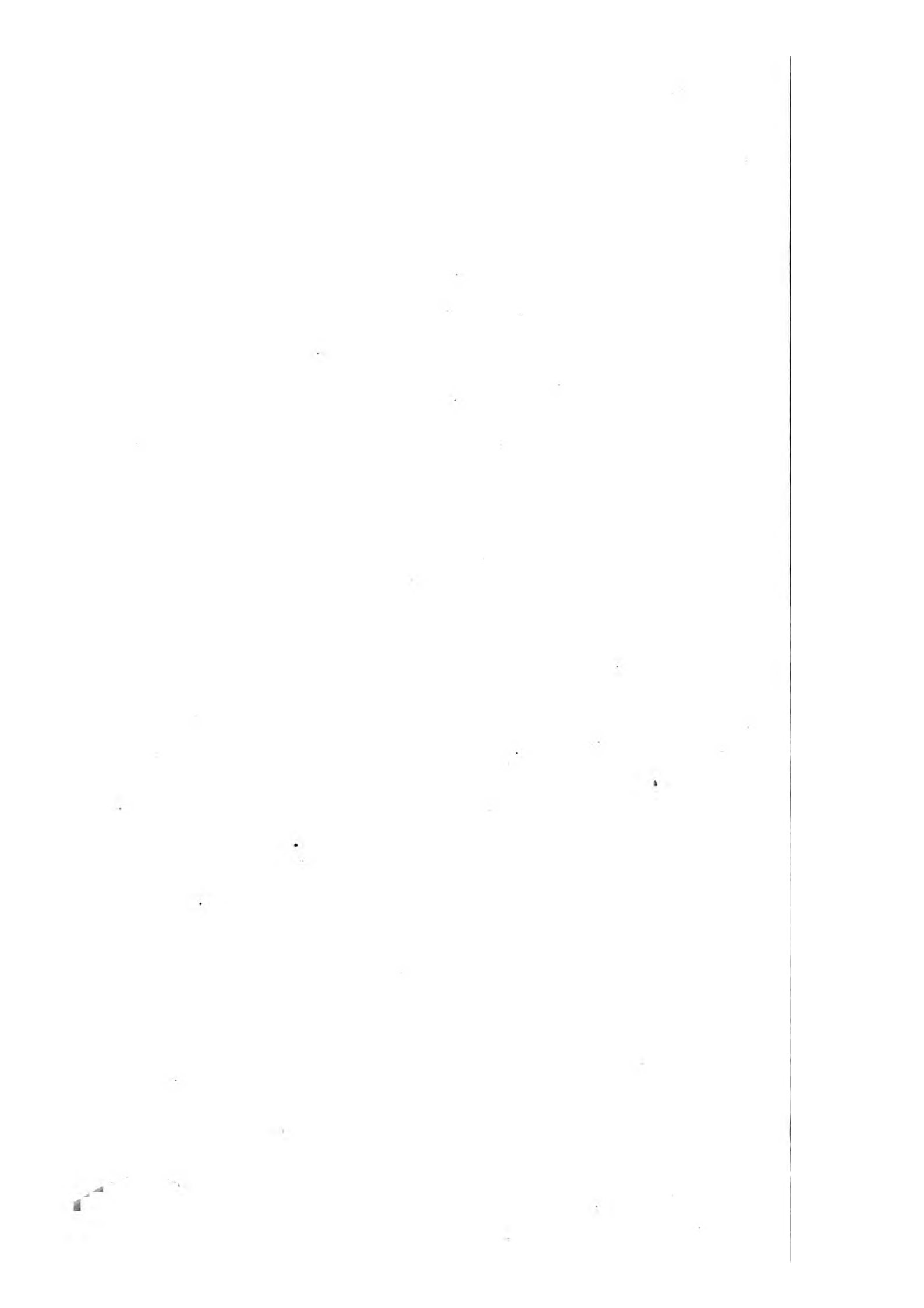
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# REFORMS IN THE FRENCH ARMY.

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## Part I.

# THE LAW OF RECRUITING.

TRANSLATED AT THE TOPOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT  
OF THE WAR OFFICE,

BY CAPTAIN HOME,

ROYAL ENGINEERS.



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## PREFACE.

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WHEN a great Military nation pulls down her Military Institutions and builds them up again on a new foundation, the changes that she makes, and the causes of those changes, are both interesting and instructive.

The reforms that are taking place in the French Army are so great, and the circumstances under which they are made so peculiar, that much interest attaches to them.

The Committee that has been appointed to prepare Bills for this purpose has divided the subject into two portions:—

1st. The Law on Recruiting;

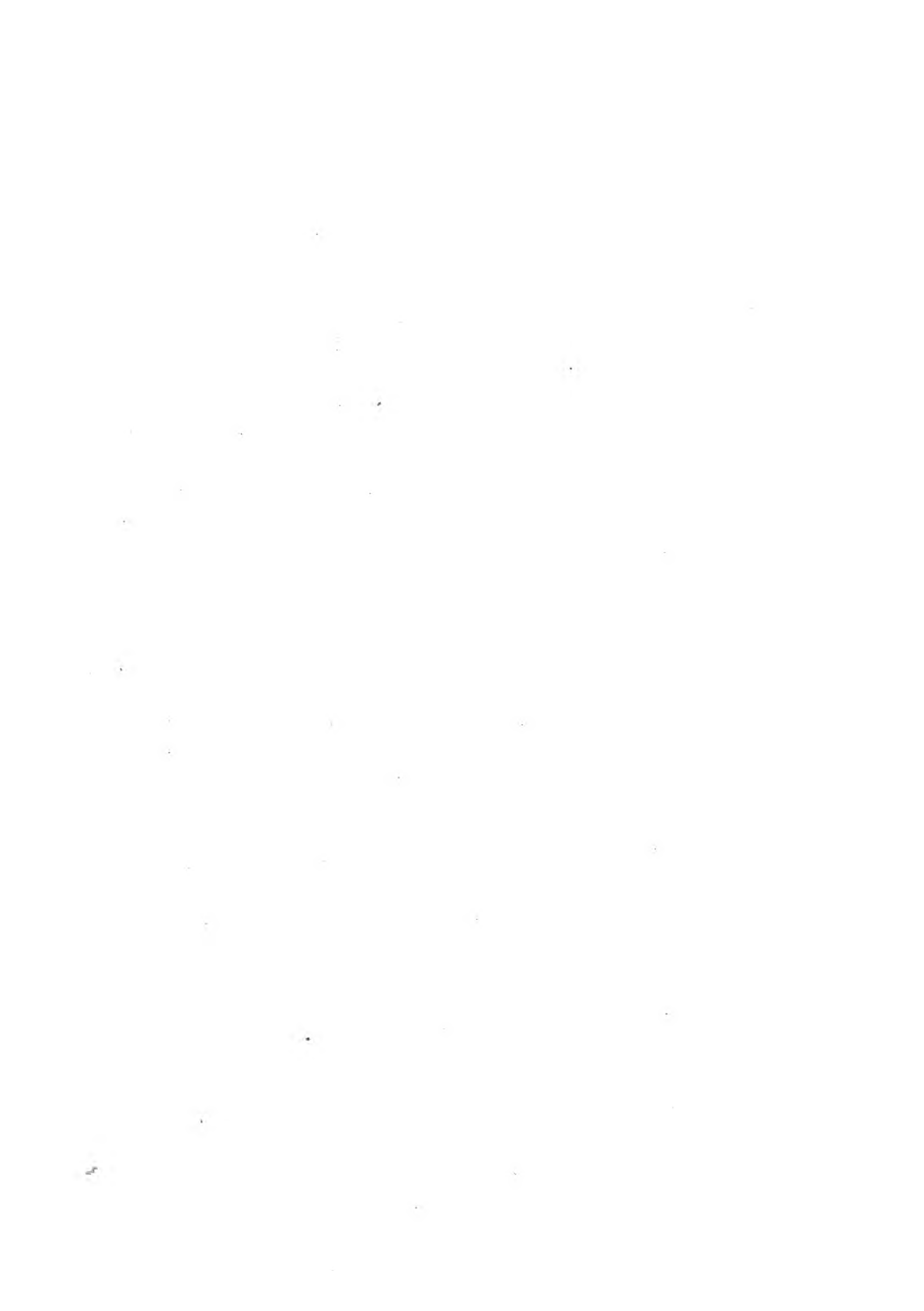
2nd. The Law on Organization.

The former alone has been brought before and passed the National Assembly, and a translation of the Law, with the Committee's Report, is herewith given.

It is proposed to give a similar translation of the Law on Organization, and some account of the new French Military Administration, so soon as the Committee has reported and the Assembly approved of the Report.

These translations will form Parts II. and III. of the series of which this is Part I.

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# REPORT

IN THE NAME OF THE COMMITTEE\* ENTRUSTED  
WITH THE DUTY OF PREPARING A REPORT UPON  
THE RECRUITING AND ORGANIZATION OF THE  
ARMY AND NAVY.

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By the Marquis CHASSELOUP LAUBAT, Member of the National  
Assembly.

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## RECRUITING OF THE ARMY.

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### FIRST PART.

#### CHAPTER I.

Gentlemen,

GREAT disasters carry with them much instruction. It is wise to understand them; it is courageous to profit by them. Far, then, from allowing itself to be cast down by its misfortunes, a nation which refuses to fall, studies the causes of its defeat, reforms everything that enfeebles it, must finally raise itself, even greater, after those trials which Providence inflicts on nations as on individuals, the better to point out their duties, and elevate to a higher place those who can support trial.

This, gentlemen, is what you wish—this is what we hope France will do.

For this reason you daily seek out everything that from its nature may enervate the country. You seek to excite its energy, and you do not despair to see her at the cost of some efforts, some sacrifices, preserve her place in the world.

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\* This Committee is composed of MM. de Lasteyrie, President; General Baron Chabaud-la-Tour, Admiral Montaignac, Vice-Presidents; Bethmont, Chaper, Colonel Carron, and the Marquis de Mornay, Secretaries; The Marquis de la Rochethulon, d'Aboville, de Combarien, General Billot, Admiral Dompierre d'Hornoy, Cornelis de Witt, General Loysel, General Victor Pellissier, General Ducrot, the Marquis de Vorgué, Admiral La Roncière Le Noury, Dahirel, de Carayon-Latour, the Duke de Crussol, General Martin des Pallières, Colonel de Chadois, Admiral Saisset, General Frebault, Fresneau, Aclocque, Marquis d'Audelarre, Passy, Baron Vast Vimeux, Audren de Kerdel, Flye-Sainte Marie, Varroy, the Marquis de Chasseloup Laubat, General Chanzy, Sarrette, Baron de Barante, de Balleroy, General Trochu, Brun (Var), the Duke d'Harcourt, Count Octave de Bastard, Bouisson, General Chareton de Merce.

With this view, you resolved that one of your Committees should report on the laws relating to the recruiting and organization of both the army and navy.

This Committee your officers have selected to represent all shades of opinion in the Assembly, justly persuaded that all the men who compose the Assembly, no matter whence they come, or what may be their antecedents, will bring to such a task, but one feeling, that of devotion to their common country.

We then, in the name of that Committee, propose to report on a portion of the task entrusted to us.

According to your instructions this task embraces both the recruiting and organization of the army.

The law under which the army is *recruited* belongs as much to civil as to military law, it is addressed to the entire population, it details the duties devolving on it, for the defence and security of the country, and has great influence on its chief interests, the development of agriculture, commerce and industry; the progress of arts and sciences, the good order of its finances.

The *organization* is entirely a military law, which, in addition to the composition and administration of the various corps, determines the conditions under which officers are promoted, their status, and regulates the strength of the general staff.

At present we propose to deal only with the recruiting of the army, on it is based the constitution of the army, and it consequently must fill the chief place in our military institutions.

We do not seek now to discuss what portion of our defeats are due to the faults of existing institutions.

We have first to ask ourselves if the method of recruiting the army which has hitherto prevailed in France, is in consonance with the situation of the country as regards Europe, and with the ideas of the people?

Doubtless, the law of recruiting, as it at present stands, has given us gallant armies, and even latterly in the midst of our reverses, when our soldiers although under unfavourable circumstances were able to come to close quarters, they have shown no degeneracy, and that they are still, as in Algiers, the Crimea, and at Magenta, the worthy descendants of those who fought at Fontenoy, Fleurus and Jena. It would be unjust, ungrateful not to loudly proclaim this fact.

But, gentlemen, in order that a law for recruiting the army should give what the exigencies of modern war demand, it is not sufficient that the soldiers sent under the colours should show bravery and self-denial, it must also inspire the whole population with an elevated feeling of duty, and when the defence of the country is at stake a fraction of the citizens must not be left in a state of apathy; above all, the requisite number of defenders must be forthcoming.

Let us examine if this has been the case, but before doing so let us briefly review the past.

## I.

Without going back to that period in our own history when to fight was a privilege, it may be remembered that under the ancient monarchy, and more especially under Louis XIV, the army was recruited by voluntary enlistment by the captains of companies and the colonels of regiments, who gave for this purpose commissions to subordinate officers, termed *racoleurs* ("bringers"), paid in proportion to the number of men they brought.

But in a short time the inadequacy of this method of filling up the gaps in the army was recognized, and a subsidiary means of recruiting was adopted by calling out the provincial militia; each village having to furnish a contingent fully equipped for a service of two years.

Selected originally by the inhabitants of the parish—these militiamen were subsequently drawn by lot.

You are aware that during the wars of the Revolution our armies were formed as follows:—

First by the enlistment of men who, moved by patriotic feelings, volunteered for that purpose.

Next by levies to compose new battalions called to arms by the words the "country is in danger."

Then by calling on 300,000 National Guards from 18 to 40 years of age, men not married, or widowers without children.

Finally, by a levy *en masse* until the enemy had been expelled from the territory of the Republic.

If by these means an army of 400,000 men was formed and the foreigner by a sublime effort finally driven out, assuredly the victory was due not to our military institutions, as once, order and liberty returned the necessity of organizing a regular and permanent recruiting was recognized. Voluntary enlistment did not suffice, and enlistment for money could not fill the voids.

The Conscription was then established; the Conscription we should remind you had been proposed to the constituent Assembly in 1789, but had been rejected as at variance with the liberty of the citizen.

General Jourdan had the honour, in the year VI, to propose and carry through the law, which is the point of departure of all our legislative enactments on this subject. By this law all young men from 20 to 25 years of age were divided into five classes.

*The conscripts comprised in all five classes were attached to the various corps composing the Army; they were enrolled by name, and no substitution was allowed.*

They could not, however, be sent on active service without a special law; the youngest in each class being then summoned first to join the colours.

Compulsory personal service was at that time the rule for all; all might be called on during five years, after which they were absolutely free in time of peace, but were, in time of war liable to be called on, according to circumstances. The conditions requisite to fulfil, to become an officer, were also laid down by this law. Great and fertile principles were enunciated by it, which have,

nevertheless, been much abused, but which remain the greatest legislative enactment of that period, and which gave France power to struggle against all Europe.

Notwithstanding the formal declaration in the year VI, that substitutes were not allowed, it must be acknowledged that from the year VII, the principle of substitution re-appeared. It is to be found in the law of the 28 Germinal, and since then has found a place in all laws, notably in those of the years VIII and XIII, which introduced the drawing of lots to determine which young men of each class should be first enrolled with the colours. Some of these laws, however, placed substitution under certain restrictions; thus it was allowed only in *favour of those who were deemed unfitted to sustain the fatigues of war*, and of those who, by continuing their studies, were deemed more useful to the State. It also entailed certain responsibilities, and necessitated the payment of a sum of money.

In any case, conscription, that is to say, an obligation to serve imposed on all young men capable of bearing arms, in each class, existed from the year VI until 1814. And if substitution existed during that time, it was by no means free. It is also known that the anticipation of the various classes gave rise to great exhaustion during the last years of the empire. And it may be recollected with what favour the Act by which the Restoration abolished the conscription was received.

Subsequently to the events of 1815, when the armies were disbanded, an attempt was made to unite their *débris*, so as to preserve some troops for the country. Departmental legions, which took the name of the department where they were formed, were created. Discharged soldiers were induced to re-engage, it being considered that they were not entirely free from military service; others voluntarily enlisted.

Each legion being recruited in the department where it was formed,—the conscription being abolished,—no means of filling gaps but by voluntary enlistment were provided.

The inefficiency of such enlistment soon showed itself, and when after some years' trial, it became requisite seriously to re-organize the military forces of France, it became also requisite to return to some regular and certain means of obtaining recruits.

An illustrious General and writer, Marshal Gouvion Saint Cyr, as minister, had the courage, unfortunately very rare, to resist the party in power, proposed, in 1818, the law known by his name.

This law organized recruiting in the spirit in which it has subsequently been conducted. It fixed the strength of the contingent to be embodied each year at 40,000; it divided that number amongst the various departments; it fixed the method of counting the young men of each class; established a system for drawing lots, to determine the individuals to be furnished by each canton, and fixed the length of service at six years.

And, with the object of having a reserve which could feed the army, the law directed that non-commissioned officers and men sent home on completion of their period of service should,

in case of war, under the name of veterans, perform home service, the duration of which was also limited to six years.

In time of peace no military service was asked from these veterans, and in time of war, except under the authority of a special enactment, they could not, be called on to quit their military division.

But while this law sent into the army all the young men that the ballot designated as forming a portion of the contingent, it, with the object of tempering the severity of military service, admitted exemptions and dispensations.

These exemptions were based on infirmities, want of height, and upon particular circumstances, which showed that the individuals to which they were applied could not leave their families without doing them an irreparable injury.

The dispensations were particularly for those men who benefitted the State by continuing their studies before beginning a useful career.

There was this difference between exemption and dispensation, that the young men who were exempted did not diminish the number of the contingent, their places being taken by others in the order of the lots. The young men who obtained dispensations were, on the contrary, deducted from the number of the contingent, in certain cases the dispensation was only provisional, being conditional on the youth following the career for which he was studying, and for which he obtained a dispensation.

This law authorized substitutes, and also an exchange of lots amongst young men who had been drawn.

With the object of forming the cadres of the army, the law of 1818 required that candidates for the post of officer should fulfil certain conditions, serve a fixed period in each grade before promotion, and reserved one-third of the vacancies amongst the sub-lieutenants for deserving non-commissioned officers, and fixed that two-thirds of the promotions to the ranks of lieutenant, captain, and major should be by seniority.

This was, as you see, a law both for the *organization* and *recruiting* of the army, and also for the promotion of the officers, and that too, at a moment when France invaded, was still occupied by foreign armies.

Face to face with such painful events, gentlemen, the words security, and independence of territory, have more significance than at other periods. Minds do not then run riot on absurd theories, of universal peace, or on the resistless power of masses of men, and armaments hastily improvised.

Then the ideas of thoughtful men are no longer regarded as chimeras, but everything that can preserve the greatness of the country is gladly accepted.

It must be added that the law of 1818 was not a conscription proper; conscription compelled all young men of one class to serve, and used the ballot only to determine the order in which they should be enrolled.

Recruiting as fixed by the law of 1818, applied only to the



contingent, which was divided amongst the departments, and young men not selected by lot were completely free from military service: no future demands could be made on them. This explains how, from the outset, this law was so easily adopted, and never produced the complaints consequent on the conscription.

However, the departmental legions, with which the law of 1818 did not interfere, failed to produce the advantages expected from them. The fact that it was requisite to take for each legion men of the department in which it was raised produced difficulties of many kinds. This method of recruiting also caused great differences in the value of the various portions of the army, and, consequently, interfered greatly with its homogeneity. Consequently, in 1820, the 94 departmental legions were converted into 80 regiments of the line and light infantry, recruiting for which was carried out generally throughout France.

Finally, and we beg to direct attention to this fact, as dealing with the important question of reserves, the veterans on furlough, after six years' service in the regular army, do not appear to have been as useful as was anticipated; it was therefore considered preferable—

1st. To raise the contingent from 40,000 to 60,000 men, one portion of which would not be enrolled, but remain at the disposal of the State.

2nd. To fix the length of service at eight years in place of six, and free all the men sent home from further service.

This was the law of the 9th June, 1824. The contingent of 60,000 men, you will observe, was then established, as the contingent of 40,000 had been in 1818, and the Government had power to deal with it without reference to the Chambers, except inasmuch as it had to seek grants of money. This power remained until 1830; then it was decided, as a principle of parliamentary government, that the strength of the contingent to be enrolled each year, both for the army and navy, must be fixed each session.

The system of reserve, organized in 1818, was thus abandoned, and the system of having a contingent larger than could be possibly enrolled was adopted, a certain portion of the contingent being sent on furlough, subject to recall when required.

This was in accordance with the views of Marshal Soult, when, in 1832, he considered it desirable to alter some of the arrangements of the law of 1818.

The law of the 21st March, which, in addition to the measures we have here described, maintained the recruiting as established in 1818, laid down the principle of the division of the contingent into two portions, both placed at the disposal of the Government, in the following words:—

“The army is composed of two portions, the proportions of

“ which are fixed by the annual estimates, viz. :—

“ 1st. The effective strength with the colours.

“ 2nd. Men left on leave or sent home on furlough.”

These men remained under military authority for seven years, the period fixed by the law, and could at any time be incorporated with the army, it being believed that this system gave a reserve at the disposal of the Government to meet all eventualities.

At that period, movements of troops were not rapid, and they could not be quickly united into great armies, it was consequently believed that there would always be a certain time available to train the men; and it was hoped that at the moment of war, when the young men who had not served were called under the colours, they would come forward with more alacrity than those who already knew the monotony of barracks and the drawbacks of the profession.

This, then, was the system which has prevailed in later years (it is desirable to bear it in mind),—a reserve of men left at home—a reserve sometimes more considerable, you will see shortly, than the portion of the contingent actually enrolled.

From this time, the annual estimates regularly fixed the number of the contingent at 80,000 men; lastly, the law of 1832 allowed substitution.

But, gentlemen, as luxury spread in France, and new pursuits were opened up for young men, they seemed less ambitious of following the profession of arms; the number of substitutes increased, and the means employed to obtain them occupied public attention, and, more than once, motions on this subject were introduced into the Chambers.

There were in short, both in the army and in the country, symptoms which could not be ignored. In 1841 and 1843, various proposals were made to apply a remedy to the acknowledged evil. In 1849, proposals were made by General Lamoricière, with the object of enabling old soldiers to profit by the money paid for substitutes.

But these proposals fell to the ground; and, in 1855, the law of the dotation of the army put an end to substitution. But in doing so, it most unfortunately introduced a system which almost entirely did away with personal service; for if, since the year VII, substitution was allowed, the State was no party to it. The young man called to serve under the colours had to serve, or bring a man in his place, so that personal service was performed either by the individual or his substitute, as directed by the laws of the years VII and VIII, the law of 1855 completely changed the whole state of affairs. Whoever could pay the price fixed by the administration for exemption was completely exonerated by the State from all military service, and deemed to have discharged his duty to the country.

This freedom from all obligation to serve was not the only bad point in the law of 1855; there was yet another not less objectionable; it introduced into the army ideas of pecuniary advantage, which immediately benefitted the man who was desirous of joining or remaining under the colours; and, consequently, cancelled that principle of our military law,—“In the French army there “is neither bounty nor any payment whatever for engagement.”

The following were, after some years, the consequences of this law of exemption:—

Out of 32,000 non-commissioned officers, 23,000 had re-engaged with bounty.\*

More than 23,000 exemptions had been claimed annually.†

The number of that portion of the army not furnished by the conscription had risen to 283,000, of which number 164,000‡ were Government substitutes—men engaged or re-engaged for money.

Doubtless, the re-engagement of such a large number of non-commissioned officers, the composition of whose cadres play such an important part, ought to give great solidity to the army; and it was this idea, and the wish to improve the situation of old soldiers, that produced the law. But it is also certain that, on account of the large number of engagements and re-engagements with bounty, it was impossible to incorporate with the army each year more than between 20,000 and 30,000 men of the contingent voted. Exceptional circumstances were requisite, to call on the second portion of the contingent, and if it was enrolled, the men had no military instruction.

It was then seen that some instruction for the men belonging to the second portion of the contingent was requisite, and, consequently, they were drilled for three months the first year, two months the second year, and one month the third, as fixed by the circular 10th January, 1861.

Finally, in 1863, it was determined, with the view of diminishing the number of re-engagements of non-commissioned officers, whose cadres were entirely blocked, to delay the payment of the bounty until their ultimate discharge, paying meantime 3 per cent. on the amount.

Such was the state of affairs; it had already occupied the minds

\* Prior to 1855 the number of non-commissioned officers who had re-engaged did not exceed 3,000 to 4,000.

† The number 23,000 is an average; but when war broke out in 1859 it showed the evils of the system; the price of exemption had been fixed at 92*l.*, and had never been increased when the contingent was raised from 100,000 to 140,000 men, 42,000 exemptions were then asked for and given. These exemptions had to be compensated for in 1860.

‡ Permanent strength (1865–1866)—

1st. Officers attached to regiments, intendance, staff employés of the artillery and engineers .. .. .	24,897
2nd. Departmental gendarmes (not including officers) .. .. .	20,200
3rd. Voluntary engagements without bounty (serving 7 years)	55,230
4th. Voluntary engagements with bounty .. .. .	16,016
5th. Government substitutes .. .. .	50,097
6th. Men re-engaged with bounties .. .. .	88,664
(Not including 10,000 gendarmes who had re-engaged.)	
7th. Re-engaged without bounty .. .. .	2,506
8th. Foreign corps (not including French) .. .. .	4,024
9th. Native corps (not including French) .. .. .	8,853
10th. Veterans .. .. .	390
11th. Retained as a punishment.. .. .	10,137
12th. Not belonging to the service (workmen, musicians, &c.)	2,068
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>283,082</b>

both of the Government and all those who clung to the greatness of their country, and knew that a powerful military organization could alone preserve it. Such was the state of affairs when the events of 1866 forced into prominence facts which many persons had previously refused to see.

It was then evident that the constitution of our military forces did not correspond with the exigencies of the new state of Europe.

Doubtless, our army offered an imposing array; it had preserved its great qualities. But it could not be concealed, on the one side, that the number of men we could bring into the field was far below that which a neighbouring power could rapidly put on foot; and, on the other hand, that we had no real reserve organized to support and take the place of the army, or even fill up the gaps that war would produce.

Judging from official returns, it appears, that after deducting the troops requisite to garrison Algiers, the gendarmerie, and all the men included in the number 400,000 of the army, but not properly combatants, that France had not more than 270,000 to 280,000 men to garrison her fortresses and place in line of battle. This number (400,000 men) was the actual strength the estimates allowed to be maintained; but it was not, we hasten to remind you, the number of men that the law of the contingent placed at the disposal of the Government.

Thus, during the Crimean war the army was raised to 500,000 men, by summoning the second portion of the contingent; but to keep it to this strength, it was requisite to have a contingent of 140,000 men for three years. When that war terminated, it was seen that the contingent must be 100,000 men if the normal strength of the army was to be 600,000 men; and when the Italian war broke out, the necessity of having a contingent of 140,000 men was acknowledged, and this must have been continued if that war lasted.

It must be borne in mind, gentlemen, that the number of the contingent voted each year is very far from putting at the disposal of the military authorities a number of men equal to the number voted.

The contingent is reduced by the number of men requisite for the navy, and also by those legally exempted, so that a contingent of 100,000 men hardly places 80,000 at the disposal of the War Minister.\*

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\* Analysis of the result produced by the incorporation of a contingent, 100,000 men, under the laws of 1832 and 1868—

	Men.	Men.
Contingent .. .. .	..	100,000
1st. Number of men that certain parishes could not supply owing to the numbers of the lots being exhausted .. .. .	..	90
2nd. Naval conscripts .. .. .	..	2,023
3rd. Pupils at the Polytechnic School .. .. .	..	57
4th. Employed in public education .. .. .	..	1,140
5th. Pupils in ecclesiastical establishments .. .. .	..	1,06

In any case, looking to the recent events in Germany, it was acknowledged "that the military force of France should consist of 800,000 men,—viz., 400,000 in the regular army and 400,000 in the reserve; in addition to which it was requisite to form an army for home defence, clothed, drilled, and capable of being mobilized under the pressure of extraordinary circumstances, such as a threatened invasion of the country."

These ideas were those which produced the project of 1867, brought forward by Marshal Niel. To obtain the proposed object, this project required—

- 1st. That the entire contingent, after deducting those who were exempted or whose services were dispensed with by the law of 1832, should be put at the disposal of the Government (about 150,000 men annually).
- 2nd. That the annual finance law should divide each class enrolled by lots into portions, one of which should be incorporated with the regular army, the other with the reserve.
- 3rd. That the length of service in the regular army should be five years, at the expiration of which time the soldier should serve four years in the reserve.
- 4th. That the young men who were not incorporated with the regular army should serve four years in reserve, and five years in the National Guard "Mobile."
- 5th. Lastly, that service in both the regular army and the reserve should count from the 1st July of the year, when the recruits were placed on the rolls of the corps.

This, it must be acknowledged, was compulsory service to a certain extent for the entire class placed in the regular army or in the reserve, yet the principle of exemption was maintained, and young men incorporated with the regular army, and those composing the reserve might exchange with men belonging to the National Guard "Mobile," or obtain the latter as substitutes,

	Men.
6th. Having obtained great prizes .. .. .	2
7th. Discharged the day of the final review .. .. .	683
8th. Unfit for the army .. .. .	774
9th. Left at home as being the supporters of a family, 2 per cent. .. .. .	2,042
10th. Dead; omitted as having been included in error	304
Total .. .. .	8,176
Remaining for the army and navy .. .. .	91,824
Naval contingent .. .. .	9,000
Remaining for the army .. .. .	82,824
Young men who have voluntarily engaged, or who already belong to the service by indenture or commissions .. .. .	3,400
Leaving as the actual number of men a contingent of 100,000 men adds to the army .. .. .	79,424

both then belonged to the latter force, which the law proposed to create.

This Guard was composed of young men who, not having served in the regular army, had served four years in the reserve; of all those who, under the law of 1855, were exempted from service, as well as of those who had obtained substitutes for service in the reserve. The length of service in the National Guard "Mobile" was fixed at five years.

Under this system it will be observed that all the young men of each class, except those exempted or dispensed with by the law of 1832, were enrolled for military service from 20 until 29 years of age. Being for the portion selected by lot five years in the regular army and four years in the reserve, for the portion not serving in the regular army, four years in the reserve and five years in the National Guard "Mobile."

It consequently followed that the reserve was composed partly of old soldiers who had served five years with the colours, and were from 25 to 29 years of age, and of young men of 20 to 24 years of age who had not been incorporated with the army.

This project appeared, however, to the legislative body to impose too heavy a tax on the population, and after a discussion, to which we need not now do more than refer, the law of the 1st February, 1863, was passed, differing from the Government proposition, it maintained the principles of the law of 1832, the yearly contingent being divided into two classes: the first, composed of young men incorporated with the army; the second, of those who were left at home.

The length of service was fixed at five years, after which the men served four years in the reserve. Service was to count from the 1st July of the year of enrolment, which was important,\* exoneration was suppressed, substitution and exchange of numbers was allowed; and after five years' service with the colours, re-engagement gave a right to a high rate of pay.

The law also established, as was asked, a National Guard "Mobile."

This guard could only be called out by a special law; it was composed of all the young men who, on account of the numbers they had drawn, were not included in the contingent, and of all those who had obtained substitutes; finally, of all those exempted by the action of the law of 1832.

Length of service in the National Guard "Mobile" was five years, the officers being nominated by the Chief of the State.

Finally, after allowing the revising councils to grant dispensation to those who had families to support in the proportion of 10 per cent. in peace, and 4 per cent. in case of war; and having established certain punishments for breaches of discipline, the law

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\* The operation of the census, drawing up the lists, the drawing of lots, the action of the council of revision, could only be performed after the 1st January of each year, and necessarily took some months, consequently the full period of service was never actually fulfilled.

directed that the young men composing the National Guard "Mobile"—

- 1st. Should take part in drills in their own parishes ;
- 2nd. At company and battalion assemblies, which should take place in the company and battalion districts.

But, the law added, each drill or assembly must not cause the loss of more than one day to the young men drilled, and these drills and assemblies can take place only 15 times in the year. You can thus see the spirit of the law of 1868, its object was first, —by having a length of service of nine years (five in the regular army and four in the reserve), to put at the disposition of the Government nine contingents, thus forming, if each contingent were 100,000 men, a force of about 800,000 men ; preserving the system which existed, of leaving a part of the contingent at home, and organizing a system of reserve which should be like that formed by the law of 1818, since in effect this reserve was composed partly of soldiers who had served under the colours for five years, or, who in the second portion of the contingent, had belonged to the army for five years.

Lastly, an attempt was made to form at once, under the name National Guard "Mobile," a general reserve, into which all young men who on any account whatever were not included in the contingent had to enter. In this way, this law established universal compulsory service.

But at the same time it must be observed that in imposing on the young men composing the National Guard "Mobile" drills and assemblies which should produce a loss of only one day, and could only be repeated 15 times in the year, the law did not give any efficient means of instruction for the men composing this portion of the army.

In addition, it must not be forgotten that this organization was hardly drafted when the war of 1870 broke out. You are aware that cadres for only a very small number of companies and battalions had been then formed. But we also know, having witnessed it, the generous efforts of the various departments to hasten the formation of those batteries and battalions which marched full of courage and devotion ; and you have seen on many occasions how these men, taken but the day before from their peaceful occupations, hardly knowing how to load their firelocks, have given proof of true courage, and shown what they could do, had the institutions of their country but given them habits of discipline, and a better military education.

Such, gentlemen, is a précis of the various laws on recruiting in our country. We were anxious to pass them all in review before you, to show on what ideas they were conceived, and upon what principles they were founded.

Now that you, in your turn, have to determine how the military forces of France are to be organized, it appears advantageous to recall the history of this subject.

Affairs are in a worse state than those our fathers knew. The

sacrifices we must make are greater ; on this point we must not deceive ourselves.

Doubtless it is to be regretted on the score of civilization that Europe should be compelled to keep up millions of men ready to take the field, but this must be so long as the elements of a balance of power have to be sought. For in the midst of civilized nations conquests can but be transitory. But whilst we wait we have at our side a power ready made, who, laborious, well taught and disciplined, can fling numerous armies on our naked frontier. We cannot hesitate, let us therefore boldly begin the work.

## II.

Gentlemen, the problem you have to solve is a difficult one. Its solution has been sought for many years, when the state of things was far less complicated than at present ; and yet the ablest men, those most conversant with the subject, could not agree on what was best to be done.

But now that armies have been brought to such perfection, new and formidable weapons have been discovered, and since those powerful engines, powerful not only for civilization and commerce, but also for war—Railways—have given a power of moving masses of men suddenly and rapidly, and throwing them quite unexpectedly on the country to be invaded, the problem has indeed become most complicated. Amid the great changes in the science and art of war, in the formation and mobilization of armies, doubtless some general principles remain constant, but to apply them, serious obstacles must be overcome ; and it is only by compromises that can satisfy everyone that they can be overcome.

Thus, to give large armies, a great number of men must be enrolled under the colours ; but if these men are withdrawn for a long period from their ordinary pursuits, society suffers. If too short a period of service is fixed, the men do not acquire the qualities of real soldiers, and the cadres do not acquire sufficient solidity.

To reconcile these conflicting elements the constitution of the army must be studied.

The time requisite to make a soldier of the different branches of the service must be fixed ; what constitutes a solid cadre must be determined ; and then the problem how, in addition to the regular army, a force sufficient to strengthen, replace, and fill its gaps can be found, must be solved.

From another stand point of view, the effect of the proposed system must be considered ; its effect on the development of population, upon civil pursuits, upon agriculture, commerce, industry, the sciences and arts ; lastly, the financial effect of the scheme, and whether the finances of the State can support it.

This is not all, important as these questions are, there are perhaps others of a different class, of still higher importance.

We refer to the effect the law of recruiting must have on the



feelings and the manners of the nation. In a country which requires a powerful army, but where a great number of the citizens can, on account of wealth, excuse themselves from military service, it is probable that by degrees the public spirit will become profoundly altered. Amidst the dangers and reverses of the country hearts will no longer vibrate with patriotic feelings, a sort of egotism will rule men's minds, and men will gauge the common misfortune but by that portion they themselves, as individuals, have to sustain.

In France, thank God, we are not yet at that point. The past has left us so much that is grand that we may yet struggle against the enervating doctrines preached to us. In the midst of our disasters we had one consolation, it was to see men, hitherto strangers to the military profession, hasten to meet the summons to arms. Within these walls, we need not recall the many noble examples given on the field of battle, where death levels all distinction of rank. But, gentlemen, for a commonwealth, courage is not everything. To make it powerful and great other virtues are required.

The more democratic a commonwealth is, the more obedience to a superior, and the law, the more military and civil discipline are needed; and we dare to say it, the greater severity for all who violate these laws is requisite. At this price only can order and liberty be maintained. Is it impossible to have a law of recruiting such that it will inspire these feelings and produce these habits? Your Committee thinks it possible, and its labours have been guided by these ideas.

The morals of a country cannot be reformed by legislative enactments; modern society in the midst of the luxury diffused through all classes by industry, commerce, and the arts, in the midst of progress in every direction, each day producing new wants, cannot be compared with those ancient societies, where a legislator could by his own will, dealing with small numbers of people, issue laws from which sprang great and fruitful reforms.

But the influence of institutions on men is also known. It is acknowledged that there are in the history of nations moments when they must draw themselves together, so to speak, and collect their energies, in order that they may not slide down that slope, down which falling nations too quickly descend.

Our hopes, our efforts, will doubtless meet with more than one sceptical objector; for in this France, for 80 years so agitated, so torn, where all forms of government appear to have been tried, where all authorities have been destroyed—raised—but to be again destroyed—what has remained constant, what principle is unaltered? Has not each revolution been one ruin more on the ground; one doubt more in the minds of men?

Yet we have confidence in our country, we believe that its misfortunes—perhaps even on account of its misfortunes—it requires energy only to lay the dangers which menace it, and to place it once more in its proper position in the world. We do not hesitate to think that the legislative enactments you have ordered us to prepare, cannot but have some influence on the ideas and habits of the people.

It is from these various points of view, gentlemen, that your Committee has regarded the task entrusted to it. It has devoted many meetings to this purpose, it has studied the greater number of the questions raised in the projects submitted by you, and it has examined the various systems which have been produced during the course of the discussion.

It has been acknowledged that the regulations of 1868 cannot give the results that were expected from them. We will explain why, in another part of our report, it has been further acknowledged that these regulations are very far from attaining the object that it appears desirable to reach.

But if its opinion is formed on this subject, it has not yet (we must acknowledge) decided on many points that must be settled, before arranging all the propositions that should be laid before you.

It has then only decided on certain general principles, from which, to a great extent, the remainder must flow, and which, in any case, must be the frontispiece of the law. It has therefore desired to submit these principles to you before going further.

It is good that the country should know them, and know the spirit in which the law, on which its armed force must be based, has been conceived.

This is why we have separated the first section, which contains the general arrangements, and which has been unanimously agreed to by the Committee.

This section embraces seven articles, which are rather a declaration of principles than the development and application of what flows from those principles.

#### 1ST SECTION.—GENERAL DISPOSITIONS.

##### *Article 1.*

Every Frenchman is liable to personal military service.

##### *Article 2.*

There is in the French army neither bounty in money, nor payment of any kind for enlistment.

##### *Article 3.*

Every Frenchman, who is not declared unfit for *all* military service, may be called on from the age of 20 to that of 40 years, to form a portion of the regular army and its reserves, according as the law directs.

##### *Article 4.*

Substitution is abolished.

Dispensations from service, according to the conditions specified in this law, do not give complete exemption.

##### *Article 5.*

Men with the colours are deprived of the elective franchise.

*Article 6.*

Every armed and organized body of men is under martial law, and forms a portion of the army under either the Minister for War, or the Minister for the Navy.

*Article 7.*

No one can serve in the French Army who is not a Frenchman.

The following are excluded from and have no title to serve in the army :—

- 1st. Those who have been guilty of felony.
- 2nd. Those who have been guilty of a misdemeanour and imprisoned for two or more years, or have been placed under the surveillance of the police, and deprived of municipal, civil, or family rights.

Before submitting this section to you, gentlemen, we asked the President of the Republic, and the Minister of War to examine it.

What is now being dealt with, you will observe are but general principles, and do not affect the organization of the military forces, and need not interfere in any way with the task to which the Government devotes itself in such a praiseworthy method ; but as the principles we have enunciated must one day have a considerable influence upon the army and on society, we considered it right that we should first hear the views of the Government on the subject.

The Chief of the Executive Power and the Minister of War attended a meeting of the Committee, and it followed from that meeting that the Committee and the Government were agreed on several important points, and only on the question of substitutes was there any difference of opinion.

The study of the details at the proper moment will, we believe, greatly reduce this divergence of opinion ; nay, we hope it will entirely disappear.

However this may be, it is most desirable that you should see the spirit in which the declarations we have made are submitted to you.

Personal military service for all Frenchmen is not deemed unfitting.

It compels every man from 20 to 40 years of age to answer the summons of his country when its defence or internal security is endangered.

It prevents his throwing his share of this duty on others.

It compels those who enlist voluntarily to be disinterested.

It forbids all interference of the army in political matters.

It suppresses all armed bodies who do not form a portion of the army and are not under military law.

Lastly, it declares that none but Frenchmen can be admitted into the French Army, and those guilty of disgraceful crimes are excluded from a share in that honour.

We propose to give you, as briefly as possible, some remarks on each of these Articles. While it is requisite that their bearing should be clearly understood, it should not be exaggerated.

The first Article—"All Frenchmen are liable to personal military service"—is the basis on which the whole edifice that we would raise rests.

It is requisite that every one should know from his infancy what he owes to the defence of his country; it is requisite that he should prepare himself for his task, and that he should not for one moment imagine that he has the power to withdraw himself from the burden when it falls on him.

In all situations society protects him; it is requisite that he in his turn should be ready in all situations to protect society with all his powers, both of body and mind.

This principle is not new, for, not to quote the law of the year VI, which says, "All Frenchmen are soldiers and are bound to defend the country," does not every law on recruiting proclaim this obligation in a general way?

If, on account of considerations to which we will have to revert, these laws have in their application tempered this principle, they have yet maintained it. The last law on this subject, that at present in force, says, with reference to the home army (the National Guard "Mobile"), "that it must act as an auxiliary to the army in the defence of fortresses, coasts, frontiers, and the maintenance of order." Has not the law of 1868 disregarded the greater number of the exemptions previously granted? Have not all young men been ordered to march? Has not the entire country responded to the appeal?

We repeat there is nothing new or surprising in this principle; it is that on which all our laws of recruiting have been founded.

So far as the general principle goes, and so long as nothing more than was implied in previous laws which submitted all young men to the recruiting law was intended, this proposal received no opposition from the Government.

But we must not conceal from you, that in our eyes this principle, as we have laid it down, is of far wider application than ever was contemplated in any former law.

We have been induced to ask you to base your law on this principle by viewing it from two different stand points, and in order that two distinct interests may be benefitted.

Undoubtedly, when this obligation is imposed, when we say that every Frenchman owes personal military service, either in the army or its reserves, we seek the power of enlarging the army and putting a much greater number of men at the disposal of the State, in order that the masses of men who can invade this country may be met by masses of at least equal strength; we are, moreover, desirous (and this will be explained hereafter) that every man, to spare himself the ennui of military service, may seek to prepare himself beforehand, and thus reduce the expenses of the State.

But other motives, perhaps of a higher and more elevated

character, have, as we have already explained to you, induced us to proclaim the principle of compulsory service.

First, there is the homage due to the feeling of equality—a feeling which amongst the envious and jealous seeks to degrade all to the lowest level; but which we, on the contrary, seek to make a lever to elevate all.

When in any assemblage of men, especially in an army where discipline exists, all classes are mixed together, we may feel sure that noble ideas will prevail, good examples will be followed, and that the whole tone will be raised. Further, we may be sure that, when performing the same duties, obeying the same rules, bound by great common interests, sharing the same privations and the same dangers, all classes will be knit more closely together, and will see much that now appears to divide them disappear. Lastly, we may be sure that under such circumstances men will appreciate one another, and have a mutual sympathy for each other; the different gradations of rank which the force of circumstances always produces in all societies, far from then being an object of jealousy and hatred, will, on the contrary, produce true respect.

If you doubt this, gentlemen, ask old military men who, having settled down in the country, meet every day old soldiers who belong to the corps in which they have served. Further, ask naval officers who amid trials and dangers of all kinds have lived in common with the men of their crews. Ask them what they have learned, what they have found at home, when they have met again the brave men whose labours and perils they have shared.

But this is not all, we must pay homage to and do justice to the army. Look at what now takes place in the army, how industry, education, feeling, personal dignity, the duty of men towards their fellows, respect for superiors, good fellowship with equals, is increased and developed amongst the young men who join the army annually. Follow these men after their discharges to their homes, you will find them the most sought after, the most respected; they carry there the qualities they have cultivated, the habits they have learned in the army.

Let us say it boldly, gentlemen; the army is the great school for the country. Future generations will come and imbibe there feelings of patriotism, discipline, and honour, and the nation will receive a manly education which cannot but influence its destinies; thus raising the tone of the army itself, which will then be entered by men of the well-to-do classes, and the country in return will receive men improved and civilised by the army.

The principle we propose for your adoption is then from both points of view a healthy one.

In the terms of Article 2, there is no longer bounty in money or payment of any sort, for engagement. This, as you are aware, is the principle which has existed since the revolution of 1789; the law of 1818 used the same words as we now propose, and they were also reproduced in the law of 1832. If they are not now included in the existing law of recruiting they have been unfortu-

nately erased for the time. It is requisite that it should be known that men who join the army voluntarily do so, not for money, but from a desire to serve the country in a noble career.

But while we repudiate all ideas of bounty for engagement or re-engagement, we are far from saying that the position of men who after a certain number of years wish to remain in the army should not be improved, nor that the comforts of old soldiers should not be augmented.

Thus, additional pay, increase of pension, are by no means interfered with by this Article. What we prohibit is the bait (pardon the expression) used to lure men to enlist. But payment for actual service rendered should be respected what form soever it may take.

Article 3. "Every Frenchman who is not judged unfit for *all* military service may be summoned from the age of 20 years to that of 40, to serve in the regular army and its reserves, as fixed by law."

There are in this Article two things to which we must direct your attention.

First, it declares that every Frenchman who is not unfit for *all* military service may be called on for service in the army and its reserves.

Second, it fixes the limit of this service at from 20 to 40 years of age.

The first of these Articles you will observe limits exemptions to those granted for such infirmities as debar the individual from forming a portion of the army, or one of the numerous auxiliary services which follow all armies.

Thus, the post office, the hospitals, the telegraphs, the commissariat stores, &c., &c., can evidently utilize many men who would be unfit for the ranks. When the law says "unfit for *all* military service," it means not only the active duty of the soldier, but for all those other services which do not require the physical qualities requisite for a soldier.

Perhaps at first sight it may appear strange that all those who cannot completely fulfil the duties of a soldier are not freed from the obligation to serve. But it must be remembered that the law is conceived on the basis that each man must serve his country according to his abilities, and that the greater part of these auxiliary services take out of the ranks many men who should figure there as combatants; taking this into consideration, it is only just and right to declare that these duties may be performed by young men who are now entirely exempted, and believe themselves to be perfectly free of all duties towards the country.

The second proposition is equally important, and its meaning should be clearly understood.

It follows that from the age of 20 to 40 years all Frenchmen have a serious duty to perform, that for 20 years the country will have, for its defence and security, a right to call on their devotion and courage. But this obligation will not be the same during the whole period, and public opinion must not be deceived on this subject.

The law, when it says "may be called on to form a portion of the army or its reserves as may be directed," wishes to show on the one hand that limits would be placed to the action of the law, and also that the periods during which men would be successively called on for the active army and its reserves as well as the conditions of service, would be fixed by legislative enactment.

You must, gentlemen, always bear in mind that the section that is now submitted to you contains only general arrangements, and does not enter into details, which necessarily are included in other sections. What we are at present concerned with is the question whether or no it is reasonable that all Frenchmen can, according to circumstances, from the age of 20 to that of 40, be called on for the defence of the country and the maintenance of the security of the commonwealth.

We, so far as we are concerned, do not hesitate to answer affirmatively. Without referring to many countries where a similar obligation begins earlier and finishes later, we say to you definitely that in our opinion there must no longer be bodies of armed men in France, other than those composing the army under the orders of the military authorities.

We must, then, consider not only the necessity of the organization of a regular army and the reserves requisite to sustain it and fill up the gaps, but also what is requisite for internal order.

This Article does not seem, then, to impose an exorbitant charge on all Frenchmen for 20 years.

The law we propose will, if approved by the Assembly, be the law for recruiting and organising all the military forces of France.

It is requisite, therefore, that it should be comprehensive enough to embrace everything that the security or defence of the country may require, and also leave no space, no matter what may happen, for those extraordinary levies, which strike people with astonishment because they do not understand and are not prepared for them. When the various arrangements of this law are examined it will be found, on the contrary, that the demands it makes, although serious, for they are appeals to the patriotism and devotion of every one, are, however, far from interfering with the duties or clashing with the careers of anyone.

Marriage, for example, your Committee, (who do not accept the idea that a married man owes nothing to the defence of his country,) will tell you when we arrive at these details how it is proposed to reconcile the interests of population with the requirements of military service.

Your Committee will also point out the important part that preparatory military instruction will play, and the happy results that emulation produced by wise measures will produce in the ranks.

Once more the Committee beg to repeat its recommendation.

All Frenchmen may be called on from 20 to 40 years of age to serve in the army or its reserves, as may be determined by law according to circumstances.

This principle has been unanimously agreed on by the Government and the Committee.

The same has not been the case, as we already have said, with the next Article, which does away with the law of substitution.

“Substitution is suppressed.”

“Dispensations from military service do not confer a complete liberation from that duty.”

You will have observed, gentlemen, in the first portion of this report, that, notwithstanding the clause against substitution contained in the law of the year VI, it did not fail to make its appearance in the law of the year VII, but merely exceptionally, and it remained in force until the year 1814, despite the difficulties and restrictions thrown in the way of its application.

You have also seen that substitution was allowed in the laws of 1818 and of 1832, and if it disappeared in 1855 to give place to exoneration as we at present have it, it existed but under another form, which rendered its exercise more easy, and which was re-established in 1868.

We are not ignorant that substitution has been considered as a means of satisfying the exigencies of civil life, and of those situations that it was desirable for the State to preserve; and whenever this question has been agitated, it has been stated that substitution allowed the law of recruiting to weld itself more easily into our social system.

It is for this reason that the Government makes no objection to the three first Articles of the Chapter which we now lay before you. As we have already pointed out, the words, “Every Frenchman is liable to military service,” does not touch the question of substitution, any more than the terms of the law of 1832, which submitted all young men having completed 20 years of age to the obligation to draw lots.

But, gentlemen, your Committee believes it to be desirable to go farther than the laws of 1818 and 1832; it believes it is now requisite to proclaim the rule of compulsory personal service; this, in our opinion, is the basis on which the law should rest.

It has already told you its motives.

It does not conceal that doubtless the suppression of substitution has a certain importance, that with the people this Article will at first appear the most severe in the whole law; but we trust and hope, that when better informed, they will understand the object we have in view, and that they will then see only the application of principles which are dear to them.

It will be well to give an account of the various arrangements which may be adopted to lighten the load imposed on every one, but conjointly with the principle of compulsory service, substitution cannot exist. If we suppose that in the formation of the army and its reserves, certain substitutions between the young men of the same class are allowed; suppose that with the object of exciting emulation beforehand and giving, so to speak, a bounty in the form of encouragement to superior attainments, this would not be a deviation from the main principles of the law, which allowing substitution undoubtedly would be.

But is it requisite that every young man should pass with



the colours the entire period fixed for service in the regular army? We do not think this is requisite, only his not doing so must be in virtue of special dispensation, and such arrangements as may satisfy the legitimate ends that must be kept in view, regard being had to the pursuit of civil professions, and the necessities of certain situations.

Thus, while no exemptions but those arising from infirmities, rendering young men afflicted with them unfit for military service, will be allowed, it is evident that those who, for example, are the sole support of a widowed mother, may obtain a dispensation, as well as men who wish to take Holy Orders, and enter other situations in life too long to enumerate here. This is what this Article refers to when it speaks of dispensations on the conditions prescribed by law.

If we examine what has taken place in a country which on the morrow of a bloody defeat was wise enough to adopt this principle, we see with what care the various interests to which we refer have been conciliated. "Overslaughs," that is to say, temporary dispensations from service are granted not only to those who support a family, but also to entire categories of individuals who the State considers should pursue their own careers.

And do not think, gentlemen, that these overslaughs are given only to the higher ranks of society, for the reverse is the case.

Independently of those individuals whose state is similar to those provided for by the exemptions of the law of 1832, we see side by side with them the pupils of certain schools, the heads of industrial, agricultural or commercial establishments, whose presence appears indispensable. We see the sons of farmers whose labour is necessary on the farm, workmen and apprentices to whom the State wishes to grant time to complete their education.

Yet we must again repeat these overslaughs are not complete exemptions, they are conditional, for the most part provisional, and allowed only in time of peace. Then, in addition to these dispensations, it has always been arranged, while the application of the general rule was satisfied, that the requirements of various professions should be considered. Thus, young men who have important studies to pursue, and who give proofs of certain military instruction, are allowed to remain under fixed conditions but a short time with the colours.

We know that in these overslaughs much is left to the discretion of the authorities, but was not the same done with us by the law of 1868, even for the bread earners of families?

There are, then, no insurmountable difficulties in providing fairly for all the exigencies of various careers. But this must be done by the law, by regulations which must be made in broad daylight, so that everyone may know them.

The Article adds, "Dispensations do not confer a complete discharge."

This is evidently a result of the system itself. If every French-

man from the age of 20 to 40 years forms a portion of the regular army and its reserves, it is evident that the cause for which a dispensation was allowed must cease at some time or other. It would not be just that he should remain freed for ever from all military service; he must follow the lot of others who belong to the same contingent; his obligation must only cease when theirs cease too. This is the reason dispensation from service does not give complete liberation.

By its terms the law wished to show that those whose services are dispensed with, are placed in a situation entirely different from those who are exempted by the laws of 1818 and 1832, viz., that the exempted men were declared absolutely free.

The question of substitution is truly the question of compulsory service, and it is this which, as we have already said, divides the Committee from the Government.

The Government think, that without substitution it will be impossible to properly satisfy the requirements of certain professions, the necessities of certain situations; in short, what the state of society actually requires.

The Committee think, on the contrary, while they do not lose sight of these requirements or necessities, that measures may be taken to satisfy them, which will stimulate earnest study both amongst civilians and military men, without allowing any one, by money, to relieve himself from the obligation of military service.

Thus, after all, it is but a question of means between the Government and the Committee; and we hope, that when you examine in detail what we propose, you will also be of the same opinion.

But it appears desirable to us that the National Assembly should be able to gauge the extent of the law.

When so many detestable doctrines are spread through this country, whose object is to divide the various strata of society (for there are really no longer classes) when these detestable doctrines seek to divide those termed the "rich" and the "poor"; oh! gentlemen, it is a grand answer to be able to make to such people, all of you, whose sons have fought, or who may be called on to fight for France, it is a grand answer to make, "Substitution is suppressed, every Frenchman owes military service to his country."

Your Committee has, with one exception, been unanimous in adopting this principle.

Article 5, "Men under the colours shall have no vote." This Article is inserted in the law on account of discipline.

It seeks to interfere with none of those questions which a law on the suffrage may raise; it seeks only to remove a cause of discord and insubordination from the ranks of the army.

It is not advisable that military men, who, in the acts they have to perform as a body, are submitted to their superiors, should sometimes find themselves the equals, perhaps the adversaries, of those superiors without ceasing to be under their orders.

The feelings thus produced may influence, and be influenced, by what passes in the army, which is much to be regretted.

To use the franchise as laid down by existing laws, men placed in a regiment must form distinct isolated groups, according to the departments they belong to.

The men forming each group must enter into discussions, and must have names inserted on their voting papers, of which they are often ignorant. They are asked out of their barracks and camps to be instructed by officious election agents, and God knows what politics, what principles are often taught to them.

They vote far away from their fellow citizens, who might have enlightened them if they had been amongst them, and, nevertheless, their votes are counted amongst the others.

Gentlemen, we could not have a greater example of the discipline, the good sense, and moral power of the army, than the fact that it has been able to resist the dangerous solicitations, the fatal doctrines, with which, for some years, it has been flooded.

To take part in elections is, for the army itself, a bad thing. But for the Government, of whatever form, nay, for society itself, it is worse.

The votes of the soldiers, as you are aware, are not cast into the urn on the day of election, and mixed with those of the citizens; they are collected apart, and, according as they are favourable or the reverse to such and such a party, to such or such a political personage, public opinion, without taking any account of the causes which may have produced the effect, strives to find out the motives, and very often discovers what really has no existence.

Thus, in addition to the ill effects produced on discipline, the vote of soldiers with the colours is productive of grave evils. Leave the army its great and noble mission to perfect itself in military art and science. Let it have no political part to play. It belongs to the entire country, and this in itself is greatness; do not seek to drag it at the tail of political parties.

Article 6, "All armed bodies are submitted to military law, and form portion of the army under military authority"; hence the National Guard is suppressed.

During the last war, bodies of men commissioned by the State have been denied the title of belligerents. It is requisite to prevent a recurrence of such things. It must be known that all bodies of men organized and armed by the State are a portion of the army, and are submitted to military law, either under the Minister for War or Marine, according to circumstances.

This principle is, then, the requisite corollary of the new organization, which, it seems to us, should be that of the military forces of France, and the obligation which the law imposes on all citizens.

When, by the effect of the principle of compulsory service, all men can be called on to form a portion of the regular army and its reserves from the age of 20 to that of 40 years, it is evident that the country will then have at its disposal, not only for the defence of its territory, but also for the maintenance of internal security, everything that is requisite.

Hence, there need be nothing beyond the army, in the form of armed bodies submitted to military authority, but having other origin, following other rules, and dependent on other powers.

The National Guard disappears, then, by the force of circumstances. All men of 20 and 40 years of age ought to serve in the army and its reserves; there is, therefore, no longer the means of forming a national guard, without borrowing from an organization that it is requisite the State should preserve intact.

But this definition of Article 6 does not interfere with, we need hardly say, the custom-house officials, who, in carrying out the duties entrusted to them, must evidently preserve their arms to defend themselves against smugglers. Neither does it affect the institution of firemen, which is a collection of brave men intended for special service in special cases.

Lastly, the last Article admit Frenchmen only into the national army, and excludes from military service felons, those who are guilty of misdemeanours, or are placed under the surveillance of the police.

The defence of the country is a duty for all citizens, but it is also an honour; the foreigner has no interest in it, and the unworthy must be excluded from the privilege.

These, gentlemen, are the considerations which we desired to make known to you, and which we should much have liked to abridge. But it was of importance that everyone should understand the bearing of the resolutions which we have the honour to submit. We now only submit general principles which may serve as the basis of the law of recruiting.

It is by regarding this question, both as it affects the army and society, that we have arrived at the conclusions we have, and from the same points of view we beg you to approve them.

Do not think that we have disregarded the fact that interference with the customs of the people so far as the law of recruiting is concerned is a delicate matter. But it seems to us that the time has now come when the country must take up a position from which reforms, such as we desire, may flow. Be sure of this, that far from clashing with popular sentiment, the people will, when they see this great Assembly proclaiming these principles, understand the elevation and patriotism which animates it.

Do not think that we have allowed ourselves to be drawn away in pursuit of novelties, or by an unreasoning desire to imitate what has succeeded with other nations.

No; for while we know that it is requisite not to adhere blindly to the mistakes of the past, and believe that our methods and our institutions are the best, yet we are equally aware that it would be folly to conclude that, because we have met with reverses, therefore our institutions contain nothing but faults. Such alterations as are required should be made, then, with a firm but prudent hand. And, if we have sought instructions beyond our frontier, it is the better to understand our misfortunes, and the better to understand the lessons they convey.

Lastly, gentlemen, we cannot forget the words of Montesquieu as to what constituted the greatness of the Romans.

“Having successively combatted with all people, they invariably gave up their own customs so soon as they found better. Their first object was to find out in what respect their enemy had a superiority, and that they instantly adopted.”

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## SECOND PART.

### CHAPTERS II, III, IV, AND V.

After pointing out in the first part of this report the various laws which have governed the recruiting of our armies; after exposing the general principles which should, we think, serve as the basis for our new military institutions, there remains to submit to you the various rules which the application of these principles entail.

But, in order that we may advance more securely on the road that the interests of the country demand, and that public opinion appears in some sort already to have marked out, it is requisite to state the problem clearly.

We think that the army France at present requires is, not only a force permanently and powerfully organized, and a great school, where all the elements of which the nation is composed may imbibe instruction and military discipline before entering civil life, but also a vast framework within which all these elements, educated and told off beforehand, may range themselves when the country is menaced in its independence, or its internal security.

This is the problem we seek to solve.

This problem, gentlemen, is no invention of ours; force of circumstances, our situation in Europe, above all, the state of our society, imperatively demand its solution.

Doubtless, existing legislation might create considerable, nay, imposing military forces, but it cannot lay all the dangers which threaten us.

There is no one who has a greater respect for the distinguished authors of the laws of 1818 and 1832; none who render more justice to their work than your Committee. We have owed to them, for fifty years, the soldiers of which we have been so justly proud. The recruiting, the organization of the army, answered fully, as we acknowledge, to the requirements of that period.

You may recall how at those periods, in the midst of various States which had coalesced against and conquered her, France still preserved her preponderance, owing to the size of her territory, her population, and her unity.

You may also recall of what the permanent armies of the great powers were composed, what heterogeneous masses many put in line before the homogeneous forces of France.

Lastly, it is well known that with the arms then in use, with the means of transport then existing, the personal valour of the soldier was of great importance.

This quality of personal courage is not now so great as when troops fought closer; firmness and courage upon the field of battle often then compensated for inferior numbers. Under these heads our army has been happily gifted.

Looking to the state of things in the country itself, after the great and often glorious wars of the revolution and the empire, we see that although the country was in a state of exhaustion, and there was much outcry against the abuse of the conscription, yet the better classes of society, influenced by the noble history of the past, still sought the profession of arms; young men knowing nothing of commerce, for whom industrial pursuits, then in their infancy, had no charms, and who were little affected by the enjoyments of luxury. Lastly, if there were in the country parties animated by hostile political passions, none, at least, sought to upset social order itself, and to hurl one class of individuals against another.

Under such conditions laws which, while they based recruiting on the principle of equality, gave some alleviation to the severity of the regulations; produced an army which, although drawn from all the living force of the nation, yet by allowing substitution, permitted those who were in easy circumstances to escape military service, and by length of service formed and kept old soldiers.

Such laws and such an army, we repeat, were then in unison with both our situation in Europe and our internal condition.

Nevertheless, this legislation, which, when it appeared, was a true conquest over ancient prejudices, yielded, perhaps, too much to the objections raised against conscription. It liberated from military service, and freed for ever from the most holy of all duties, those who the ballot did not send under the colours. Thus, raising substitution, in one sense, from a privilege to a right. It cannot be denied, that seeds, the growth of which have enervated the public spirit, and altered the constitution of the army were thus sown.

This did not fail to show itself under the Government of the Restoration, and under that which succeeded it, and many men, eminent for their military experience, largely discussed the bearing of these laws.

They studied by what combinations it was possible to instruct a larger number of young soldiers each year. And this became more desirable when, on account of the increase of riches, and the large number of new careers opening for young men, it became apparent that each year the number of young men belonging to the well-to-do classes entering the army decreased, and the number of substitutes increased. Men then

began to be much affected by the change, and means to remedy it were anxiously sought.

Thus, gentlemen, each day the army became gradually more and more an institution distinct from the country, to which the country appeared entirely to give up its defence and its security; and all those who did not belong to it were entirely relieved from this duty, and became utterly careless about it.

Happily, the army preserved its noble traditions, and it imbibed, from feelings of honour and discipline, a power and a patriotism which it should have obtained from the aid of all citizens. Happily, also, at the period of which we speak, our organization, compared with that of the greater part of other nations, was far from being deficient.

But since then, gentlemen, things have changed not only all round us, but even in our midst.

You know who are now the great powers of Europe, and in what position they are, the importance of their military forces, and what has led them to profoundly modify the constitution of their armies.

You are equally aware of the internal state of our own country; the revolutionary passions it is torn by; the fatal doctrines men seek to spread amongst the people; the solicitations they address to the soldiers; the divisions that are to spread in all ranks of society.

Looking to the state of foreign affairs, and in presence of the internal perils which threaten us, it appears indispensable and requisite to enlarge greatly the basis upon which henceforth should rest what we may term the armed organization of this country.

Doubtless the law of 1868, and this should be acknowledged, has already taken an important step in the direction we seek to follow, since in place of completely liberating from military service the young men who are not embraced in the annual contingent, it still retained them to make a part of the National Guard "Mobile," intended to be an auxiliary to the active army. But, it imposed on them no service in the army, and called on them, only in case of war, without giving them any sufficient military instruction. On the one hand, it gave up a considerable portion of the resources, which it might otherwise have disposed, and on the other, it allowed too great a difference to exist between the men composing the various classes, of whom, some placed in the contingent remained nine years in the army, whilst others belonged only to the National Guard "Mobile" for five years, and as substitution was maintained, it was evident that the composition of the regular army could not be altered. It was, then, not in the army but in the National Guard "Mobile" that all the young men of certain classes in society were to be found.

Now, on the contrary, what we seek we cannot too often repeat is the union, the mingling in the ranks of the army of all the elements of society, how diverse soever they may be. This, in our

opinion, is a social necessity imposed on the country, as urgent as the defence of our soil which imperiously demands it.

Thus, gentlemen, we arrive at the ideas which we have already expressed.

The army ought to be not only a permanent force powerfully organized, and a great school, where all classes of the nation come in succession to imbibe military instruction before entering civil life, but also a vast framework in which the educated elements previously classed according to their aptitude are arranged, the day the country is menaced, either in its independence or its internal security.

To realise these ideas has been our desire in bringing forward the project we lay before you.

This project is divided into five sections. The first is devoted to general arrangements in some sort the preamble of the law ; this we have already dealt with, and do not again propose to refer to.

The second treats of calling out the various classes.

The third treats of military service.

The fourth of voluntary enlistment.

The fifth of penalties.

## 2ND SECTION.

Founded, as you are aware, upon the principle of compulsory service for all Frenchmen who are not considered unfit for military service, the Bill will summon all young men, aged 20 years, to form a portion of the regular army, then to serve in the reserve, and then in the territorial army until the age when their services will be dispensed with.

The census of these young men is carried out according to existing rules, lots are drawn exactly as at present (the reason why will be shortly explained) ; then they are examined by councils of revision, which pronounce upon the objections which may then be raised, as well as on the causes of exemptions and dispensations. The law recognizes no other cause for exemption than those resulting from infirmity, which renders a man unfit not only for service in the regular army but also from being utilized in its auxiliary services ; and the law further directs that young men who appear, on account of a want in height, not to fulfil the requisite conditions should stand over, and their cases be submitted for two consecutive years to a new examination by the council of revision.

As for men whose services are dispensed with, the project admits but three classes.

The first for young men that the laws of 1832 and 1868 considered would, by their removal, make too great a gap in families, whatever may be their situation or fortune (Art. 13 of the law of 1832).

The second is conditional, that the young men to whom it is granted remain for a certain time in professions that it is the interest of the State that they should follow (Art. 14 of the law of 1832).



The third for those who are really the bread-earners of their families, and actually fulfil this duty.

These dispensations are, however, merely conditional; the young men to whom they are granted do not cease to belong to their classes, and when the cause for dispensation disappears they are then submitted to all the obligations that they otherwise would be found to fulfil.

Then, to satisfy the requirements of men who have to perfect themselves in their apprenticeship to some trade or art, also to the requirements of certain commercial enterprises, and also the better to meet, we do not hesitate to say, the requirements of justice, the law permits in time of peace a delay or overslaugh for young men placed in the above conditions.

This is, if we may use the expression, a counterbalance to what you will see proposed hereafter for young men whose studies cannot be stopped, or too long suspended, without a great prejudice to the careers on which they are engaged.

But these "delays" do not liberate the person who receives them from military service; they adjourn simply in favour of his *vocation in life the period when* it has to be fulfilled, and may in certain cases diminish its duration.

Further, the number of these dispensations accorded to the bread-earners of families, as well as of the "delays," is limited in proportion to the number of young men considered fit for service.

The responsibility of granting them is handed over to a council possessed of the fullest information, and the composition of which is of itself a guarantee for the justice of its decisions.

Lastly, all young men who may be left in situations such as we have described may be subjected to drill, and in case of war are not exempted from taking part in the defence of the country.

When the councils of revision have terminated their labours, the parochial recruiting list is finally completed. This list is divided into five parts, so that all the young men, except those definitely exempted on account of infirmities rendering them unfit for any service whatever are inscribed each according to the situation in which he is placed.

Further, the law directs that from these lists, when the class shall have been placed at the disposal of the Minister of War, there shall be kept in each department or in each district a register upon which the names of all the young men who are not declared unfit for military service shall be borne.

This register will have a remark opposite each man's name, and the position in which he is, and all the changes that may be made in his situation, until he shall have passed into the territorial army, shall be thereon entered.

Each man entered on this register is bound to notify when he changes his residence, so that the War Office shall know always where he may be found if required, under any of the cases referred to by the law.

This register is the basis upon which the system we submit must to a great extent, depend. By it alone can the careers of men forming a portion of the active army and its reserves be followed. By it alone can they be classed, not only according to their incorporation but according to the various situations that their profession renders them fitted for, and the day when it is requisite to call on these men, they will be found all ready classed beforehand, and they can at once be used to the best advantage.

### 3RD SECTION.

After thus determining the situation of the young men in each class, the law divides into different periods the time during which every Frenchman who is not declared unfit for all military service may be called on to form a portion of the regular army and its reserves.

These periods are fixed as follows:—

In the regular army service for five years, after which service, in the reserve of that army for four years.

After which men can only be called on for service in the territorial army for five years, and in its reserve for six years. All young men of the class called on, who are not exempted on account of infirmity, or whose services are not dispensed with, or who have not obtained “delays,” form a portion of the regular army and are placed at the disposal of the Minister of War.

These young soldiers are all registered as belonging to the different corps of the army, and are sent to their corps, to battalions or schools of instruction.

All begin by serving for a year in the different situations in which they are placed according to their fitness and their professions; after this first year the number of men only which has been fixed by the Minister of War, according to the estimate, and the requirements of the service are retained with the colours.

These men are selected by the numbers they have drawn in the lists of each parish, and in the proportions determined by the War Minister.

Young men included amongst those who are to serve only one year, but who do not know how to read and write and cannot pass the requisite examinations, are kept in the corps for a second year. On the contrary, those who by having acquired military instruction prior to their entry into the army, joined to what they have learned in the army, can in six months fulfil all the required conditions, may at periods fixed by the Minister be sent home on furlough. This furlough is the situation in which all men sent home after a year's service in the army, as well as those who after a longer or shorter period of service in the army may be sent home, remain. They are at the disposal of the Minister for War during the entire period they belong to the regular army. And must undergo such inspections and drills as the Minister may direct.

It is requisite to observe that the law, when it says that all soldiers belong to the regular army for five years, does not mean that they remain under the colours for that time. Considerations to which we will hereafter refer have induced us to fix this period as that during which all young men of a class, what situation soever they may be in, that is to say, either serving or held in readiness, or on furlough, or even detailed for auxiliary services, owe their service to the regular army, which is the first regular force of the country.

After this period the men enter the reserve of the regular army, and remain there four years. During these four years they are only obliged to take part in two manœuvres, the duration of which must not exceed 28 days each. They may, as may those who are in readiness for the army, marry if they wish.

But married men are none the less compelled to give the same service as others of the class to which they belong.

The time passed in the first reserve being completed, that is to say, when they reach the age of 29 years, the young men of the classes form a portion of the territorial army, and later of the second reserve.

While the project leaves it for a special law to determine the basis of the organisation both of the regular army, the territorial army and its reserves, it however lays down (because a law on recruiting should enable people clearly to understand the extent of their obligations) the principle that the territorial army should be formed from definite districts fixed by legislative enactment, and that each district should embrace only the men who are domiciled therein.

As regards the navy and the various corps attached to it—

Recruiting will continue as at present, no alterations are proposed in the naval conscription or for the marines, only on account of the nature of the service, which is essentially a voluntary engagement or re-engagement on certain fixed conditions that will be established by law, according to the wishes of the young men who may be summoned when the lists are being revised. However, it is only when the requisite number of men cannot be procured voluntarily that recourse will be had to this method.

In such a case recourse will be had as at present to the young men who have drawn the first numbers in each parish list. But to allow freedom to those who feel a desire to serve at sea instead of on land, the law authorised exchanges between these young men and those destined for the army.

Lastly, men so enrolled for the navy, or in bodies organised for naval service, after serving the time prescribed for the regular army will remain only two years in the first reserve; they will then enter the territorial army. The nature of the service renders this favour just.

#### 4TH SECTION.

The law then deals with the question of engagements and re-engagements.

The young man who wishes to enlist voluntarily must, if he enter the army, be 18 years old, and at least 5 feet and half an inch in height. The age for engagement is thus reduced one year, the height at present required is lowered by one-third of an inch; the other conditions required for engagement are continued, and to them we advise you to add, that the volunteer must know how to read and write.

You have seen already that we propose that the soldier who does not know how to read or write, may, in certain definite conditions, be retained one year longer with the colours. It is only natural therefore to impose a condition on those who enlist, the importance of which will be recognised daily by the mass of the people.

The duration of this engagement is five years, but in case of war, all Frenchmen who belong neither to the regular army, nor to its reserve may engage to serve during the continuance of the war.

Lastly, young soldiers who are about to be sent on furlough, or who are on furlough, may be authorised to complete five years' service with the colours.

So far as re-engagements are concerned the project allows them, but with certain restrictions, re-engagements which, after five years' service under the colours give a right to high pay, are allowed for only two years, but are renewable for corporals and soldiers until 29 years of age, and for sous-officers until 32 years of age.

This is an alteration which is somewhat important, and not without its object, for it allows a greater number of men to be passed through the ranks, and allows useless men to be got rid of, men who, if retained too long, would have no chance of finding in civil life occupations capable of procuring a livelihood.

But in consequence of this arrangement, it is evident that the State must ensure to the sous-officers, who leave the army after 12 years good service, a certain number of employments in which they may acquire the right of an honourable retirement.

This is the object of a special clause, in addition to which it is the intention of the Government, as the Minister for War has informed us, to ask that proportionate pensions be assigned to soldiers who have passed 12 years with the colours; that the position of sous-officers be improved, and without allowing discipline to suffer thereby their situation should be made more secure; by thus exciting amongst all men capable of aspiring to these grades a healthy emulation, the cadres of the army will, doubtless, be much improved.

But an innovation which is much greater is that embodied in the regulations relative to those who engage voluntarily for a year. When we laid before you the reasons upon which we based this law, we said, without allowing the payment of any sum of money to purchase freedom from military service, it was still possible to satisfy the demands of certain civil careers by measures which would serve to stimulate serious study, and the progress of instruction, both civil and military.

Chief amongst these measures is undoubtedly the institution of volunteers for one year.

This institution rests upon a twofold idea:—

- 1st. That the apprenticeship of a young man to military service may be much shorter if he possesses a good education than if he does not.
- 2nd. That in the interests of society and the army itself, it is better that a young man, who is destined for a civil career, should, on the one hand, interrupt his studies as little as possible, and, on the other, be ready the day the defence of the country summons him to be placed according to his fitness in the position in the service for which he is best adapted.

The law provides for young men in two categories who may come forward to contract such engagements. For both the favour will only be granted when the instruction they have acquired justifies it.

Only some, who are provided with a proof of instruction, by being Bachelors of Letters or Bachelors of Sciences, or belonging to certain schools, are allowed to have a *right* if they fulfil other conditions to form this engagement for one year.

Others, on the contrary, who are not in these situations, must be authorised to pass the prescribed examinations, the programme of which must be drawn up with reference to an extended military knowledge; the number of the latter class to be settled each year by the Minister for War.

In both cases the engagement should be formed before the lots of the class to which they belong are drawn. In all cases a young man who has diplomas, or who is studying in certain schools, and who has not completed his studies in the school to which he belongs, and who desires to complete them within a fixed period, can, by producing the requisite certificates and forming an engagement for one year, obtain from the military authorities an overslaugh before joining the corps in which he has engaged; this overslaugh can only be granted to him up to 23 years of age.

The volunteer for one year is clothed, mounted, equipped and maintained at his own expense, thus relieving the State of all charge on his account. But he is none the less submitted to all the obligations imposed on men with the colours. He must pass at certain definite periods the prescribed examinations. If after one year he does not satisfy all the prescribed examinations, he is obliged to remain in the service for a second year, according to the conditions laid down by the regulations.

It being distinctly understood that in case of war he is bound to serve.

The volunteer for one year, who has fulfilled all the examinations, may, after his year of service, obtain his rank as a "sous-officer," or a certificate of capacity for an employment at least equivalent, and he can only be recalled as provided in the law for the regular army, the territorial army and their reserves.

Such is the institution of volunteers for a year which has been adopted by all the nations who have based their military laws on

universal compulsory service ; in some respects it follows from that principle.

In our eyes this institution is as favourable to society as it is to the army.

It evidently excites young men, whatsoever may be the career they are destined for, to give themselves up to serious study, knowing that they must personally pay their debt of military service to the country; they will see that it is much better for them to do so, during peace time by fulfilling conditions such as will allow them to continue, or but slightly interfere with studies which qualify them for their chosen career; further, they may by application abridge their period of service.

This, then, will be an encouragement to studious youths, and in this respect society will be a gainer.

As regards the army, these young men will bring into the ranks acquired knowledge, and habits of application, which cannot but inspire all, and more especially those called on to command them, with an ardent desire for self-instruction, lest they should appear inferior to their subordinates.

The presence of the volunteers for a year cannot therefore but exercise a good influence on the intellectual standard.

When the defence of the country recalls these men to the ranks, they come detailed beforehand for the various arms, whose duty they know, a body of instructed able men attached to the interests of the country, and animated by those elevated sentiments which a sound education invariably produces.

In a neighbouring country, where this institution has for many years existed, great results have been obtained.

The rules there in force, (which deserve to be carefully studied,) show what care is bestowed on the military instruction of these young volunteers.

The work these men do, the examinations to which they are submitted enables them to be of great utility in various positions and in the different arms of the service in which they are placed.

As for the condition imposed on the volunteer for a year to support the cost of his clothing, equipment and maintenance. This is not, as should be known, the price of the reduction of his time of service, since he remains definitely submitted during all the time fixed by the law to the obligations it prescribes.

The State disposes of him as of all men of the class to which he belongs.

Only on account of the course of study they have pursued, the examinations to which they have been submitted when they are engaged, and those to which they must submit before quitting the corps in which they are enrolled, the law admits that their military instruction may be more rapid, but it compels them to produce proofs of this, and in peace time it keeps them as short a time under the colours as possible, in order that they may be employed in careers useful to society.

There is no longer, as there was with exoneration and substitu-

tion, a privilege accorded to riches. No, for riches alone cannot make a volunteer for a year by our law.

Acquired information, useful study, not wealthy idleness, are addressed by this institution. Its object is, in the interests of the country, to offer to young men who apply themselves to science, arts and literature, without interfering with their proposed careers, a means of acquiring sufficient military knowledge and of paying their debt to the army, while perhaps it may inspire some with a desire of attaching themselves permanently to the army.

We are, then, justified in saying that this institution is a powerful stimulant to serious study.

The price of his equipment and maintenance paid by the volunteer for one year, is thus not more than compensation for the inconvenience and expense he causes the army.

Pursuing these ideas, it has been asked if it is not desirable that the Minister of War should not have the power of paying these expenses in a certain number of cases, for young men who fulfil all other conditions of the law, and who have given proof of real capacity.

But it should be observed that this would be in a certain sense to provide bursaries, and that this is the proper function of the parishes and departments, and that they should provide them for especially meritorious subjects who belong to families with narrow means, but that it would be improper to charge the military estimates with such things, for the young men who would profit by them, far from remaining in the army, would seek civil professions.

Lastly, it must be remembered that in a neighbouring nation young men, pupils in colleges at the cost of the State, purchase in some sort this benefit by serving in the army double the number of years which they have spent in the college; and if we cannot adopt this plan in our country, at least we should do nothing contrary to the spirit of such legislation.

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#### CHAPTER V.

Lastly, the project contains the penal regulations requisite to enforce its ordinances.

These are almost identical with the actual laws, only as we attach much importance to the establishment of the register of which we have spoken, and which alone will enable men belonging to the regular army and its reserves to be followed throughout their career, we are desirous that these men should be bound to notify their change of residence; a punishment has been introduced for any infraction of this rule. A new punishment has been introduced for insubordination. In time of war, the name of an insubordinate man shall be posted during the entire war, in all the parishes of the district where he is domiciled; it is thus to a feeling of honour that we are desirous of appealing.

At the same time we seek to raise the intellectual standard of the army, by asking that all young men called under the colours should receive in their regiments, and according to their grades, the instruction determined by the Minister of War.

The 1st January, 1873, is fixed for the law coming into force as regards the regular army.

Nevertheless, the whole class called in 1872 will be at the disposal of the Minister of War, and the young men who do not form the portion selected by the Minister for War, and enrolled in the various corps, shall be placed in the reserve of the regular army in place of forming a portion of the National Guard "Mobile," in accordance with the law of 1st February, 1868.

But young men who shall have been placed, or who belong to the National Guard "Mobile" in virtue of this transition state, must undergo such drills and manœuvres as may be directed, in order that they may acquire a military instruction of some value.

Lastly, men who have completed the period of service demanded by the laws of the empire will, with the other men of their classes, be enrolled on the list of the army reserve, until they reach the age of 29; after that age, in the territorial army, as directed by the law.

Such, in short, gentlemen, is the project which your Committee submits to you.

#### *2nd Division.*

As you have doubtless observed, the project studiously preserves every portion of existing legislation that can be preserved, and which offers no obstacle to the object in view, making only such alterations as the custom of the people and the defence, and good order of the country demands.

Thus, you will observe, in all that relates to the rules for taking the census, the drawing of lots, dispensations, revision of the rules, penalties, &c., all these regulations are borrowed from previous laws, to the application of which we are accustomed; the changes that have been introduced explain themselves, and we need hardly trouble you with them.

But on other subjects, as you have no doubt remarked, great alterations are proposed.

Thus the contingent fixed by the annual law no longer leaves men at home without military instruction.\*

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\* Fixing the amount of the contingent called each year, as was done by the laws of 1830 and 1832 according to the foreseen wants of the moment, when the contingent is voted, produced the most deplorable inequalities between the demands made on the different classes called out, without perhaps satisfying the requirements of the service. Thus, when the contingents of 80,000 men were succeeded by those of 140,000 men for the Crimean war, the classes which furnished them gave almost the whole of the men capable of bearing arms, after deducting those exempted or dispensed with, while the other classes which justly should have helped the war with an equal number, since these contingents were still under the colours, were called on for very few men. In 1859 a contingent of 140,000 men was called. It was incorporated only after the peace, but these men nevertheless served in the army for seven years. This is what has made a Minister for War say "Large contingents correspond often to periods of peace; small contingents to periods of war."



The entire class is put at the disposition of the Minister for War. All the young men composing it are enrolled in the various corps; all must receive an instruction, at least sufficient to enable them, when the country is in danger, to take their places in the ranks of the army, and to bring to it the elements of a considerable force.

These regulations follow as a consequence of the principle of universal compulsory service, which is the key note of the whole law, it is true, in their application important difficulties and the most delicate questions must be raised.

These problems are those which have caused the longest and deepest discussion in your Committee. And we think it our duty to draw your attention to the various solutions that have been brought before us.

But in order that you may clearly understand this subject, and to prevent confusion, it is requisite to fix certain data.

In France, after deducting the two provinces which have been taken from us, the average number of young men who reach the age of 20 each year is 300,000 to 302,000.

But it would be an error to jump to the conclusion that France has 300,000 young men aged 20 fit each year for active service; unfortunately this is not the case.

If the report furnished by the Minister for War be carefully examined, it will be found that out of these 300,000 young men more than 65,000 are exempted on account of physical infirmity, 9,000 for want of proper height, and the other exemptions, provided by the existing law exceed 60,000. Lastly, that 6,000 individuals are left at home as indispensable to the support of their families.

That before the class is finally incorporated the loss by deaths, punishment, and desertions, amounts to 3,000; so that the class, allowance being made for these deductions, does not exceed 160,000 capable of carrying arms, which must supply the men for the navy.

TABLE showing an Analysis of a Class composed of the gross number of 302,000 names.

						Number of Men if the Class be called out in its integrity.
Average strength of the class .. .. .						302,000
<i>Deduct.</i>						
1st. Young men exempted for physical infirmity .. .. .						65,000
2nd. Young men dispensed with—						
1. For want of height (less than 5 ft. 0½ in.).. .. .				9,000		} 70,434
2. As being the eldest children of families of orphans.. .. .	3,209					
3. Sons or grandsons of widows .. .. .	20,263					
4. Sons or grandsons of persons 70 years of age, or blind .. .. .	1,135					
5. Younger brothers of blind or crippled men	99					
6. Elder of two brothers called on to draw lots together, and both selected by lot	147					
7. Brothers of soldiers under the colours .. .. .	20,528					
8. Brothers of soldiers who have died on active service, or when on furlough, or allowed pension for wounds received on duty, or for infirmities contracted when serving by sea or land .. .. .	3,318					
9. Already in the Army or Navy by virtue of a voluntary engagement, a warrant, or commission .. .. .	5,600					
10. Enrolled naval conscripts .. .. .	3,400					
11. Pupils at the Polytechnic .. .. .	94					
12. Employed as schoolmasters or ushers .. .. .	1,953					
13. Pupils of the great seminaries, or young men who are about to become clergymen of the creeds paid by the State.. .. .	1,678					
14. Young soldiers left at home by the Councils of Revision as being the support of a family, 4 per cent .. .. .					6,300	
15. Losses by death, punishment, or desertion, &c. .. .. .					2,700	
Total .. .. .						144,434
Remain really disposable, of which—						157,566
The Navy requires .. .. .						8,000
The Army .. .. .						149,566
						157,566
Or, in round numbers, the contingent for the Army will be 150,000 men.						

NOTE.—No change is proposed as regards any of these dispensations from 2 to 13 except that those who are to be schoolmasters must serve one year with the colours or in a military school.

Doubtless, the law which we propose recognises no exemptions, but those which render a man incapable of all military service; but, as we have already said, it admits as causes for dispensations, so long as those causes exist, the particular situations which the existing legislation had in view when it allowed all young men in those situations a complete release from military service.

These dispensations will, it is true, give no entire release from military service; those who obtain them must be drilled, and are liable to be called on in case of war.

But it is not therefore requisite to increase the number of young men in each class who join the army each year.\*

And while we believe it requisite to preserve such dispositions as shall allow families to retain the young men who are in a great measure their support, we think that the number to be put each year at the disposal of the War Minister cannot be placed higher than 150,000 men.

This number is derived from official documents, and we have therefore taken it as the basis of all our calculations,† and we ask you to accept it.‡

\* These men, by the law of 1868, formed a portion of the National Guard "Mobile."

† Table showing the number of young soldiers enrolled or who might have been enrolled in the contingent of the class of 1870, which is composed of the entire number of healthy young men, no dispensations being granted for those who are the support of families.

Ain .. .. 1999	Loir et Cher .. 1216	Var .. .. 906
Aisne .. .. 2397	Loire .. .. 2618	Vancluse .. .. 1148
Allier .. .. 1764	Loire (Haute) .. 1424	Vendee .. .. 1865
Alpes (Basses) .. 565	Loire Inférieure.. 2707	Vienne .. .. 1545
Alpes (Hautes) .. 521	Loiret .. .. 1970	Vienne (H.) .. 1448
Alpes Maritimes 932	Lot .. .. 1298	Vosges .. .. 1814
Ardèche .. .. 1972	Lot et Garonne .. 1278	Yonne .. .. 1783
Ardennes .. .. 1228	Lozere .. .. 673	Total .. .. 157,138
Ariège .. .. 1318	Maine et Loire .. 2382	Deduct losses
Aube .. .. 989	Manche .. .. 2083	when the con-
Aude .. .. 1379	Marne .. .. 1385	tingent was
Aveyron .. .. 1645	Marne (Haute) .. 1089	ordered to join 2,700
Bouches du R .. 1821	Mayenne .. .. 1708	Remain .. 154,438
Calvados .. .. 1713	Meurthe et M. .. 1566	On account of
Cantal .. .. 1089	Meuse .. .. 1271	war many
Charente .. .. 1543	Morbihan .. .. 2380	young men has-
Charente Inferieure 2044	Nievre .. .. 1897	tened their
Cher .. .. 1855	Nord .. .. 5821	time of service,
Corrèze .. .. 1390	Oise .. .. 1458	on this account
Corse .. .. 1184	Orne .. .. 1628	the contingent
Côte d'or .. .. 1768	Pas de Calais .. 3458	was increased,
Cotes du Nord .. 2600	Puy de Dôme .. 2418	viz. .. .. 8,247
Creuse .. .. 1364	Pyrénées (B.) .. 2352	Total .. 162,685
Dordogues .. .. 2045	Pyrénées (H.) .. 1165	The number of
Doubs .. .. 1385	Pyrénées (Orient) 873	men would
Drôme .. .. 1599	Rhone .. .. 3064	have been in-
Eure .. .. 1587	Saone (H.) et .. ..	creased if the
Eure et Loir .. 1607	Belfort .. .. 1895	standard had
Finistere .. .. 2456	Saone et Loire .. 3153	been lowered
Gard .. .. 1804	Sarthe .. .. 1857	one-third of an
Garonne (H) .. 2142	Savoie .. .. 1095	inch .. .. 2,652
Gers .. .. 1046	Savoie (H.) .. 1142	Men really } 165,337
Gironde .. .. 3170	Seine .. .. 7117	disposable }
Hérault .. .. 1727	Seine Inferieure .. 2654	
Ille et Villaine .. 2673	Seine et Marne .. 1591	
Indre .. .. 1141	Seine et Oise .. 2411	
Indre et Loire .. 1271	Sevres (Deux) .. 1502	
Isère .. .. 2557	Somme .. .. 2394	
Jura .. .. 1255	Tarn .. .. 1641	
Landes .. .. 1362	Tarn et Gar .. 1146	

Deduct 8,000 men for the navy and there remains for the army 157,337. This number would be reduced however to 150,000 if 6,000 men, the number of young men who received dispensations as being supporters of families, being deducted.

‡ It is further confirmed by the number of the class of 1870, which was entirely enrolled. *Vide* the preceding table.

It must also be observed that the army includes a great number of men who are not recruited by such enrolments, and who must be taken into account. This number is composed of the officers and men of the administrative corps, the staff of the artillery and engineers, as well as the gendarmes, those who have engaged or re-engaged voluntarily, the foreign corps, &c., &c. This permanent portion of the army, which embraces the greater portion of the cadres, was largely increased by the action of the law of 1855, which granted bounties for engagements and re-engagements, *vide* page 8 of the first portion of this report, but restrained by the limits, while we propose, this portion of the army will embrace at all times at least 100,000 to 120,000 men.

If for the future, as appears desirable, the gendarmes be not counted as a portion of the effective strength of the army.\*

It is requisite to get rid of the false impression created by the high numbers borne on the war estimates, and which in reality include a great number of non-combatants or men intended for police purpose, the cost of whom should not be charged to army votes.

However this may be, let us assume the results as they now stand.

100,000 to 120,000 men composing the permanent portion of the army, 150,000 young men capable of active service, placed each year at the disposition of the War Minister: this is the point of departure from which the army must be formed.

If, therefore, on the one hand, all the men of each class are compelled to enter the army each year, and remain there the same time, and if, on the other, the effective strength of 430,000 to 460,000 men with the colours must not be exceeded, it will follow that each class can be kept only two years in the service.

\* TABLE showing the existing effective strength of that portion of the Army not provided for by enrolments.

	Staff and Generals.	Gendarmes.	Infantry.	Cavalry.	Artillery.	Engineers.	Military Train.	Administrative Services, Sur- geons, &c.	Total.
1. Officers ... ..	2,641	696	13,008	3,941	2,229	249	327	1,909	25,000
2. Departmental Gendarmes ... ..	...	18,707	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,707
3. Volunteers for five years ... ..	...	...	15,533	4,040	2,668	1,698	754	307	25,000
4. Re-engaged men ... ..	...	...	13,697	5,922	3,451	750	495	775	25,000
5. Native troops, Tirailleurs, and Spatris ... ..	...	...	7,258	3,174	...	...	...	...	10,432
6. Foreign Corps ... ..	...	...	3,200	...	...	...	...	...	3,200
7. Soldiers retained under the colours beyond their period of services as a punishment ... ..	...	...	7,063	1,236	685	64	131	21	9,200
8. Employés of the Artillery and En- gineers, workmen engaged or commissioned ... ..	2,495	...	386	310	37	9	4	220	3,461
Total ... ..	5,136	†19,403	60,055	18,603	9,070	2,770	1,711	2,232	120,000

† The Republican Guard of Paris, numbering 5,840, one-half the cost of which is paid for by the War Office, is not included in these figures.

Now, gentlemen, granting that by means of well-directed labour it were possible to instruct and give a military education to a soldier in a year or 18 months, which, for special services, is more than doubtful—

It is evident—

- 1st. That the men of each class would return to their homes at the very moment when they would be the best fitted to render good service.
- 2nd. That sufficient cadres would be almost impossible to form, if not formed by men other than those belonging to the contingents.
- 3rd. That under these conditions the army would be only a great school where young men could be trained; but would not constitute that permanent and powerfully organized force which it is desirable that this country should possess.

Thus we are compelled to seek some combination that will satisfy both these demands:—

- 1st. To have and to keep in the army men completely trained to the trade of arms.
- 2nd. To enrol a large number of men to whom a sufficient military instruction may be given.

Here let us for one moment pause, for this is the point where divergency of opinion is produced, and upon which we must explain ourselves as clearly as possible.

Without going back to the periods when, even in the greatest battles, men fought in some sort hand to hand, and when arms, skill, and the force of each individual was of the greatest importance, it is a recognized fact, if modern wars are reviewed, that since the introduction of firearms each improvement in arms, each improvement in the material state of a country, has modified not only the conditions of war, but also the relative importance of the man as a fighting unit.

According as arms are improved, and their range increased, the means of communication improved, and transport becomes easier, and the transmission of intelligence more easy and rapid, armies become more numerous. On the one hand, the genius, the knowledge of the leaders, and the preparation for war becomes of more importance; on the other, the importance of each combatant diminishes.

It has been, therefore, justly said, the factor that must be given to numbers has increased with civilization, while the factor to be assigned to the value of each individual unit is reduced in the same proportion.\*

Shall we say, then, that numbers will suffice? No; we cannot too often repeat, No; for if the progress in all branches of the art

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\* By this it is not meant that less courage and energy are needed in the soldier, but only that the importance of each individual is less.

of war requires a greater science, more profound study on the part of those who command, it demands still more loudly, a sufficient instruction, with the greatest discipline, on the part of those who ought to obey.

Let us banish, then, these dangerous theories.

But let us also get rid of another delusion, and, perhaps, a more dangerous one, which is, that in the actual state of the military forces of the various nations in Europe, we can afford to have an army strongly organized and composed of old soldiers, but the number of which cannot, on a given day, be largely increased by men already prepared.

In our opinion, viewing this subject entirely from a military standpoint of view, that although it would be a profound error in the formation of an army not to appreciate at its true value the quality of the troops, it would be an error quite as fatal not to consider their number.

Gentlemen, this is the problem.

The first point to settle is, evidently, the time requisite to make a soldier and non-commissioned officer?

You can understand that no absolute reply can be given to this question, for the time must be longer or shorter, according to the arm of the service, according to the greater or less intelligence of the man, according to his said position, and the instruction that he has received prior to his joining the corps.

Lastly, and this is most important to remark, this period is longer or shorter according to the amount of superintendence given by the chief, and the zeal that he has thrown into his work. Your Committee has debated this subject seriously. On one side it has been remarked that military instruction was not everything for the soldier; the importance of military education was quite as great, and that the latter requires a longer period. It has been said, that amongst men, in some sort disciplined beforehand, in a society where distinctions of rank are well marked, this education may be more rapid than with us, and that it is requisite that we should not allow ourselves to be induced to place the limit of our service too low, lest we weaken the army.

On the other hand, instances have been adduced where the bearing and courage of men has been acknowledged by everyone, and who, after a short period, have been completely moulded (thanks to the continual care that has been bestowed on them) to the duties to which they were called.\*

We have observed in several nations that have recently introduced great alterations into their military organization the length of service does not exceed three years in the regular army, and four to seven in the reserve, that four years have been deemed sufficient for the special arms to whom special advantages were granted.

Lastly, it has been asked why our soldiers, who are as intelli-

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\* The Marine Light Infantry formed the Battalion de Loriert in less than one year.

gent as those of other nations, should require a longer time to train. It has therefore been proposed that the time during which they should belong to the regular army should be fixed at three years.

As this proposition was not adopted, four years was named; but the majority of your Committee did not concur, nevertheless, having carefully examined the facts of the case, after studying what the ablest men have written on this subject, lastly, having studied what has taken place amongst neighbouring nations, the Committee has considered that the period during which, under the regulations of the law of 1868, men should belong to the regular army should be that laid down in the law of 1868 as a maximum, which will allow the army to have the elements of a powerful organization.\*

As we pointed out in the first portion of this report, the length of service has been fixed as follows:—

- By the law of the year VI, which proclaimed the principle of universal service, at 5 years.
- By the law of 1818, for the contingent (the rest of the class being entirely free), at six years in the army and six in the reserve.
- By the law of 1824, at eight years for the contingent, divided into two portions, of which one-half remained at home.
- By the law of 1832, at seven years for the contingent, similarly divided into two portions.
- Lastly, by the law of 1868, for the contingent, at five years in the regular army and four years in the reserve, and for that portion of the class not included in the contingent, at five years in the National Guard "Mobile."

In 1828, the Infantry Committee of the Superior Council of War proposed—

- 1st. To divide France into great military districts, subdivided into regimental districts.
- 2nd. To pass each contingent in succession through the ranks.
- 3rd. To send on indefinite leave all young soldiers after three years' service.
- 4th. To have *depôt* battalions, whose function should be to collect these young soldiers; at certain periods to train, inspect, and confirm the military habits acquired in the regular battalions.

The following is the text of this report, which is to be found in the archives of the War Office, and which at the present day is of much interest:—

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\* *Vide* The Army according to the scheme of General Morand.

“ *Meeting of the 11th August, 1828.* ”

“ The Committee is of opinion that instruction cannot be properly given except with the colours to the whole of the soldiers. That for this purpose the entire class (that is to say, the contingents fixed by the law of 1824) should be enrolled in succession, and then sent on indefinite leave, so that the peace strength of the army should be composed of the youngest classes, and the war strength of the classes nearest their time of liberation. This proposal, which is preferable, as giving better instruction, is also that which gives the greatest economy.

“ The Committee is further of opinion that the men sent on indefinite leave should be assembled each year for short periods, and that this duty can only be performed by cadres belonging to the regiments of the regular army.

“ Lastly, to decrease the expense caused by the great number of men that must be sent each year under the colours and returned again to their homes, and to restrict the expense produced by short trainings, as also to facilitate such trainings, it appears indispensable that the kingdom should be divided into five great divisions, in each of which a certain number of regiments proportionate to the population and barracks would recruit and occupy in turn the different garrison towns. These military districts to be divided into regimental districts for the assembly of men on indefinite leave.

“ The conditions requisite for the instruction of the entire force being fulfilled by sending entire classes beneath the colours; the time during which they should remain there to acquire a solid instruction and good military habits must next be determined.

“ The Committee is of opinion that about three years is requisite for this purpose, and that after that period the soldiers may pass to the war contingent.

“ Approved by Monseigneur the Dauphin, Marshal Marmont, Marshal Molitor, Lieut.-Generals Reille, Rogniat, Valée, Bordesoulle, Ruty, Girardin, Bourmont, Loverdo, Pelleport, d’Ambrugeac; the Intendants, Denniée, et Ragnault; the Major-General Saint Alphonse.”— *From the archives of the War Office.*

In the North German Confederation, by the law of the 9th November, 1867, the length of service is three years in the ranks, four in the reserve, and five in the Landwehr.

The Landstrum embraces all men from 17 to 42, who belong neither to the army nor navy.

Three years appearing insufficient for the Cavalry, special advantages are offered to retain under the colours as many men as possible for another year.

In the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, the law of the 5th December, 1868, fixes the duration of service at three years in the ranks, seven in the reserve, and two in the Landwehr for men who join it after completing their period of service in the regular army and reserves, 12 years for those men who are incorporated directly into the Landwehr.

If, then, we have accepted a service of five years for the law



which we propose, it is, we must acknowledge, with the view that the army may have always at its disposal four classes of trained men, as we shall shortly explain, and not with the idea that the men should remain with their corps for five years. It will rest with the War Office to arrange, according to the arms of the service, the wants of the army, the instruction that has been acquired, and the financial resources, the incorporation and maintenance of the effective of each class and the sending of the men on furlough; so as to keep for the special arms and for the cadres everything that is requisite that they should possess, to give a powerful organization to the army, and at the same time to instruct the greatest number of young men.

Lastly, gentlemen, in examining this important question, we have considered carefully the transition state in which every country that alters the law of recruiting and organization of its military forces must for some years be placed.

Doubtless we have faith, as we have already said, in the principles which pervade our law; we have faith in our country. It is aware of the energy, the sacrifices, requisite to save it from decay. Its misfortunes have reanimated its patriotism.

But this new education given to our young men, and which will prepare them so well we hope for all that the country expects,—this education begins tardily; time is requisite for it to bear fruit; time is requisite that the people should understand the interest they have in acquiring military knowledge before entering the army.

Every day the minds of men will more and more get used to this idea; young men will join the army more and more prepared beforehand, knowing much that it is requisite to teach them, and thus, being more quickly able to be of use, they will be able to return home more quickly, whilst they may be as useful to the army as if, like soldiers more difficult to teach, they had remained with the colours a longer time.

But while these results are being awaited, it is requisite to give certain powers which will be used less each year, and thus to take account of an actual state of things, which in the future will have no existence, save to fix, as you will see, the number of instructed classes of which the regular army according to our ideas should consist.

But what progress soever our social customs may make, from these various points of view, whatever may be the aptitude, the preparation of the young men at the moment they are enrolled, it is perfectly certain that they will not all remain under the colours for the same length of time. The special arms, for example, require longer service; the necessities of the army itself produce too great differences between the various situations in which young men entering the army find themselves.

Thus, gentlemen, on the one side it is impossible, without enfeebling, without disorganizing the army, to keep the young men of each class only two years with the colours.

It is equally impossible to keep them longer without having too numerous an army.

On the other hand, it is absolutely requisite to keep in the army a certain number of men during a period sufficiently long to have solid cadres, and to satisfy the requirements of the special arms.

There is an equal necessity to instruct the largest possible number of young soldiers.

Hence some means must be adopted to determine who will have to serve in the various conditions entailed by the force of these circumstances.

The simplest method to adopt for this purpose is that which the people already know, that is to say, the numeral order assigned to each by the ballot.

This custom comes to us from a very early date, it being that used under the old monarchy for the enrolment of recruits in the provincial militia.

It is that adopted after the law of the year VI had submitted to compulsory service all the young men of 20 to 25 years of age; in place of enrolling, as had been proposed, the youngest men of each class, it was determined as more just to select them by lot.

This is also the way the laws of recruiting of 1818 and 1832 have prescribed the composition of the contingents placed at the disposal of the Minister of War; complaints of its action have never been raised. Nevertheless, under the agency of these laws, the difference between the situations of men drawing different numbers has been far greater than that proposed by our law, some having to serve seven years, others being freed from all military service.

With the law now under discussion such inequalities cannot take place; all young men of each class form a portion of the regular army or its reserves for the same period. The only difference that can arise is from men being sent into the various arms of the service, and the necessity of their serving longer in certain regiments in order to satisfy the exigencies of good military organization.

The Bill, therefore, proposes to do what is simplest, most just, and most conformable to our customs, by directing that the various destinations of the men be settled by lot, a method well understood by the people, and in accordance with their customs.

But as other solutions of this difficult problem have been proposed and discussed at great length by your Committee, it is requisite that they should be brought to your notice.

Amongst others, two systems have been brought before the Committee which have been much discussed.

Both concur with the Bill under discussion in requiring compulsory personal military service.

Both admit that in the constitution of our army it is impossible, especially for the special services and the cadres, to require only two years' service with the colours.

Both provide that all the men of each class, who are not unfit for military service, should form a portion of the regular army, and be placed at the disposal of the Minister for War, and should

all be enrolled on the registers of various corps, and whether or not with the colours should belong to the regular army during the same period.

These are important points which it is requisite to give in detail, as upon them the Committee is unanimous.

But after that a divergence of opinion begins.

One of these systems does not deem it requisite that all the young men of a class should receive military instruction; it is content with enrolling them in the various corps; it seeks to incorporate only a certain number of men who should serve during the time fixed by the law, unless sent on furlough as now takes place with the actual law.

Thus it is only the first portion of the class which really undergoes military service; as for the other, doubtless, it is not freed entirely as by the law of 1832, neither is it sent into the National Guard Mobile as the law of 1868 directs, but it remains at home, only each man is always at the disposal of the War Minister, either for reviews or drill, or for service in the auxiliary branches; in short, if he is required for the army he may be sent either definitely or temporarily into the corps in which he is enrolled.

The selection of the men forming the first portion of the class incorporated with the army is made by means of the numbers drawn in each parish, and according to a fixed proportion; it is similarly by the order of the numbers that men are called, if the second portion of the class, is required.

The Honourable General Ducrot, who has made this proposal, has conceived it in the following terms:—

“ *Art. 40.* All the young men of the class called who are not  
 “ exempted on account of infirmity, or whose services are  
 “ not dispensed with in accordance with the provisions  
 “ of this law, who have not obtained overslaughts, or who  
 “ are not told off for the navy, form a portion of the  
 “ regular army, and are placed at the disposal of the War  
 “ Minister.

“ They are all enrolled in various corps.

“ *Art. 41.* Each year the War Minister fixes the number of  
 “ men to be incorporated with the army according to the  
 “ requirements of the service and the money allowed in  
 “ the estimates.

“ The selection is made by the numbers drawn in each  
 “ parish from the first portion of the parish recruiting  
 “ list, as determined by the above decision.

“ *Art. 42.* Young men not immediately incorporated are  
 “ allowed to remain at home, but are always at the  
 “ disposal of the Minister of War, either for roll calls,  
 “ for assemblies and drill, or for being specially employed  
 “ in certain auxiliary branches of the army as doctors,  
 “ surgeons, veterinary surgeons, surveyors, telegraphists,  
 “ armourers, or mechanics of any kind.

“ All may be embodied temporarily or entirely into the

“corps to which they belong every time the service  
 “requires them, but always in the order of the number  
 “of each class.”

This system, the Honourable General who brought it forward, and whose opinion had great weight, informed the Committee was very similar to that in force in a neighbouring nation, who, from the impossibility that exists of compelling every man to pass three years with the colours, leaves at home the men who cannot be included in the contingent. They are called up the following or some other year, but it does not the less follow that some receive no military education, except when called upon to fill the gaps or in case of war.

This is, doubtless, true, but there is a fact that has not been given sufficient weight to: it is, that the nation to which he referred was composed of 18,000,000 in 1860, and nevertheless called up 63,000 men who remained not less than three years with the colours.

Consequently the number of men who received no military education must have been very slight, if we grant that the exemption, dispensations and overslaughes are given in anything like the same proportion as with us.

If, then, it is desired to establish conditions similar to those to which allusion has been made, it will be seen that the number of men actually incorporated must be greater.\* But in order that this may be the case, the length of service must be much reduced, and that the proposal does not admit; the number of men incorporated each year with the army must be smaller the longer the men are kept with the corps, and the result of such a system would be that hardly one-half of each class could be called under the colours.

Doubtless, thanks to volunteers for one year, which form a portion of all systems, a greater number of young men than what we have pointed out would receive military instruction. Doubtless, also, by clearing the ranks by furloughs and sending the entire class home on the completion of the fourth year, it would be possible to incorporate greater numbers. But the other portion, still very numerous, would remain uninstructed, for, according to the Honourable General, it is only at the moment when these men are called on that they would be drilled or put in a situation to render service to the State.

Your Committee, gentlemen, whilst acknowledging that the system under discussion is preferable to that existing at present, since it proposes that all the young men of the class should be at the disposal of the Minister for War and should be enrolled in various corps, is yet unable to accept it.

In our country, which has not yet formed the habits which spring from the application of the principle of universal service, it

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\* If with a population of 18 millions, each year there are 63,000 young men to be incorporated and educated under the colours, with a population of 36 millions the number should be 126,000.

is to be feared that owing to the power of leaving a portion of the class at home, without any military instruction, it is to be feared that the errors of the past would soon again spring up

From a natural feeling, perhaps from strong convictions, the commandants of corps and the military administration would seek to keep men as long as possible with the colours, and the number of men incorporated in place of increasing, and length of service in place of decreasing, as the military spirit and instruction of the country increases would, in all probability, remain stationary.

The second portion of the class would by degrees escape all obligations, and its situation would be so different from that of the first portion; that it would become disgusting to the people, who as a consequence would demand substitution.

Lastly, when in the hour of danger it became requisite to call on this second portion of the class it would be by no means prepared. It would be only what the National Guard Mobile was in accordance with the laws of 1868. It was neither equipped nor instructed; it possessed nothing; much time elapsed before it could be utilized, meantime the country suffered fearfully.

This would be exactly what the second portion of the contingent would be if untrained.

Your Committee ask, the whole idea of the law is that *all* young men fit for military service should be clothed, armed and taught. *All* will pass a time in the ranks, longer or shorter, on account of the requirements of the army; but, first, *all* will come there to obtain military instruction, in order that in the future they may all also seek and find the means ready prepared to make them useful.

The second proposal has been made by the Generals Chanzy, Chareton, Loysel, Des Pallières and Billot; in one sense it differs less from what we ask you to adopt.

According to this proposal young men who wish to serve in the special services, and who prove that they are suitable for them, are to be admitted at once when the lots are drawn; it is only if an insufficient number volunteer for these services that young men of the class are to be detailed according to their fitness and in order of number.

By this proposal the entire class must pass through the ranks; it is acknowledged, precisely as in the Bill, that a portion only can serve for one year, but in place of selecting this portion before the class enters the army it is detailed at the termination of a year's service.

Then the men sent home are taken exclusively from amongst those who can read and write, and are the best educated; these men being selected by lot.

So far as allowing the young men to select the arms of the service they prefer to join there can be no difficulty about that, it is what is usually done. It appears but natural that when the lists are revised, and the various aptitudes are known, that the young men should do this.

We have inserted a special article (Article 29) for this purpose.

But we acknowledge we feel some hesitation to insert in the law an article which, in case a sufficient number of young men did not volunteer for the special arms, would detail them for that purpose by the numbers they have drawn and their special aptitude, for the following reason.

When the question of recruiting is dealt with, it is desirable that everything should be clear and precise, that both privileges and duties should be clearly defined, so that no disputes can possibly arise on the application of this rule.

See when it is requisite to pronounce on the causes of exemption, that is to say, to make that on which the fate of men depends clear; see how our laws surround the councils of revision with precautions which is necessary, in order that all requisite checks may exist.

It has been understood that in these matters the people have so great an interest, that this tribunal, which is the sole judge, should be composed of the representatives of the people.

But this tribunal has only one duty to perform, once it gives its decision it does not again interfere, and the young men declared fit for military service are put at once at the disposal of the military authorities. Then it must be the latter authority that classes them according to their fitness for service, and which alone has the power of determining this.

Now, if according to the law it is just that this classification should follow the ballot numbers, nothing can be more natural, and we repeat this is what is, or ought to be done at the present moment, and it is quite right that a ministerial order should point this out as the proper course to follow when it is practicable. But to add an article to the law, making this which is only a matter of favour a matter of right, would cause, we think, more trouble than convenience, therefore we have not added it. As for the proposal to send home young men after one year's service, and to select them exclusively amongst those whose military instruction shall be most advanced, and who shall be selected by lot, doubtless there is something very attractive in this proposal at first sight.

In short, it appears a stimulus to good conduct, to constant efforts, to acquire as rapidly as possible the instruction deemed sufficient, and from this point of view good results might be expected from it.

But when we examine it closer, gentlemen, one is struck by the fact that the emulation so produced has but one object, viz., to get out of the army as quickly as possible.

Now, this being the prize offered, the man will gradually come to regard it, and not promotion, as the object of all his exertions. Promotion is at present his chief object, he then would dread it, because more would undoubtedly be asked from him if promoted, and thus this system, even in the instruction of young recruits, would not have the happy results hoped for.

It would, we believe, be the same in other respects.

At present the young man who, before the revision, draws a

lot, knows, once he has got a number, whether he makes a portion of the contingent or not; he also knows to what conditions he is submitted, and his family understands his situation.

Doubtless, under the new law, the obligations of the young man will be more extensive; he will remain at the disposal of the army during the whole time fixed, and he ought, in every case, to spend with the colours a time, long or short, as may be determined on; but from the moment he is enrolled, until he quits his house, his position is unchanged, his individual interest, that is to say, the interest of the entire population, necessitate this.

It is equally requisite for the interest of the army.

It is requisite that when the young soldiers join, the commanding officer should know how long they will form a portion of the corps he commands. On the other hand, if the officers see every year the best drilled and most efficient men leave the service, if they only keep the worst men, will they not find their task disagreeable, will they not feel that *esprit de corps*, that regimental pride, that all wish to preserve, and which is in fact a portion of their own honour, will not they feel this diminished?

Lastly, will not a selection amongst all men having one year of service, between those whose instruction appears to be the most forward, and who must draw lots in order to be sent home, and those who are not so selected, will not this selection produce discontent perhaps not uttered, but at least feelings that will sour many minds, and which will be most prejudicial to discipline.

We have serious misgivings on this subject.

Thus, how favourable soever the majority of your Committee is to all that could inspire earnest emulation in the army, to all that could excite the man, whatever might be his grade, to develope and improve his instruction, it could not adopt the proposal we are discussing. The Committee desire to express its respect for the ideas that have dictated this proposal; it sought to adopt it, but after careful examination its application appeared to produce difficulties of more than one kind, which it was not advisable to encounter.

For the solution of this problem, the Bill we ask you to adopt, provides, as you have already seen,—

That all the young men of the class called on, and acknowledged as fit for the service, shall form a portion of the regular army, and shall be placed at the disposal of the Minister of War;

That all are to be enrolled in the various corps in the army, and sent either to the said corps, battalions or schools of instruction;

Lastly, that each year the Minister for War fixes the number of young soldiers who must remain more than one year under the colours, and that the selection of these men will be made in the proportion fixed, according to the numbers they have drawn, on the recruiting lists of their parishes.

We believe it absolutely requisite, that for the destination of these men the military authorities should know beforehand what it

has to depend on. As for young men who are detailed to pass only one year in the army, they will be well aware that if their instruction is not sufficient during the year, they may be compelled to remain a longer time with their corps. Similarly, if after six months they have shown themselves well taught and fit for duty, they may be sent on furlough; there is therefore an incentive to exertion for those who now serve only a year, but who can nevertheless, if they feel it their vocation, aspire to all grades.

You see, gentlemen, by what considerations we have been guided in fixing—

- 1st. Five years as the period during which all healthy Frenchmen belong to the regular army, whether under the colours or not.
- 2nd. In requiring that all the young men of each class should be enrolled in the various corps, and be bound to serve under conditions which doubtless vary according to the exigencies of the army and its constitution.
- 3rd. Lastly, to fix by lot, when the men are enrolled, the various destinations they should according to their aptitude receive.

These resolutions, we must not conceal from you, have not all obtained the assent of the Government.

Thus the Minister of War has told us that he agrees with us so far as—

- 1st. The principle of universal service.
- 2nd. The institution of volunteers for a year.
- 3rd. The length of time during which all Frenchmen, declared fit for service, ought to make a part of the regular army.
- 4th. Lastly, upon the drawing of lots and the enrolment of all young men of each class in the various corps, but he cannot admit that all these young men should be incorporated and pass all under the colours according to the destination to be given them.

He thinks it is not requisite to incorporate more than the number of young soldiers required for the different arms of the service, and that they should continue to serve only as long as they are required.

And that these young men should be taken by the numbers they have drawn, the others be sent home, but should remain at the disposal of the Minister for War, to be called either to fill vacancies in the corps in which they are enrolled, or in mass if circumstances require it.

As for their military instruction, the Minister thinks that it is possible, by arrangements to be made hereafter, to give such an instruction.

The Minister also wished that the duration of the re-engagement should be fixed at two years as a minimum, and four years as a maximum; he thinks that within these limits re-engagements



will offer none of the inconveniences pointed out, and will offer men such inducements as may lead them to exert themselves.

As you will doubtless remark, the great point of divergence between the Government and the Committee is that portion of the Bill which directs that all the young men of each class shall be subjected to such a *bóna fide* instruction as shall enable them to come already taught and prepared when they are called out.

The reasons for this rule you know; we have pointed them out in the first portion of this report. We have still further developed them when analysing the system proposed by the Honourable General Ducrot.

They rest besides on ideas which have reference not alone to the interest of the army, and they have such force in our eyes, that, despite the observations of the War Minister and the great regret we experience at not being able to coincide with him, we feel compelled to abide by our proposal.

Let us now see what force the new law will place at the disposal of the country.

Five classes, each composed of 150,000 men, equals 750,000.

But losses by death, discharges, &c., must take place each year, and it is admitted in all the calculations upon recruiting that these may be assumed at 4 per cent. for the first, 3 per cent. for the second, and 2 per cent. for the remaining years.

Thus after five years the force will not be 750,000 but 704,720.

Four reserve classes of the regular army will furnish after the same deduction, 510,380.

This will give a total of 1,215,000; this added to the permanent portion of the army; or that not recruited by enrolment, and which numbers 120,000 men, will give for the regular army as follows:—

*Regular Army.*

Portion not recruited by enrolment .. ..	120,000
Five classes, deductions being made for deaths, &c.	704,720
Total .. ..	824,720
Add reserve, four classes, deductions being made for deaths, &c. .. ..	500,380
Grand total .. ..	1,325,100

But of the five classes enrolled for the regular army, the last, or youngest, class is not yet trained, and if because it is enrolled it figures on the muster rolls as effective, it is only after a certain lapse of time that it can be considered as possessing any real military value.

If, then, it is desirable to get rid of shams, it is necessary to calculate the force which the country can make use of in the day of danger, without trusting to this class, for in our opinion it is only the four trained classes of the regular army, united to the per-

manent portion not recruited by enrolment, which forms the army ready to enter into line of battle.

This is why, while we allow that except for the formation of cadres and special arms, it is not requisite that the men should in ordinary circumstances be more than three or four years with the colours, we have nevertheless asked that five years may be fixed as the period during which each class should belong to the regular army. We have been desirous that the army should always have four trained classes, and that the young men before they enter the reserve, where the duties are different, should serve this period of five years.

Thus, Gentlemen, for the regular army :—

1st. The permanent portion	..	..	120,000
2nd. Four trained classes	..	..	554,720
			<hr/>
Total	..	..	674,720
The reserve of the regular army	..	..	510,380
			<hr/>
Grand Total	..	..	1,185,100

This will be the force disposable, while the youngest class receives the requisite training.

It must be added that a certain number of young men determined by special conditions, are only summoned in case of war. Also that a certain number of young men are classed as being only fitted for duty in the auxiliary branches of the army, and these a careful administration will draw on, for such services, leaving the men fit to carry arms in the ranks.

Behind these, 1,185,100 men, there is the territorial army, composed of men from 29 to 34 years of age, and organized entirely on a different footing, so that entire freedom may be given to the regular army and its reserve.

Doubtless these figures appear to you very high in comparison with those existing formerly, but we must not confine ourselves to a consideration of these facts by themselves.

A law on the recruiting of the army, a law constituting the military forces of a nation, must be looked at as regards the forces of other nations. It should place the country on the same footing as other nations; the sacrifices called for may be heavy and grinding, but they are the price we must pay for the independence of the country.

Gentlemen, if you look across our frontier you will see the great transformations that the military institutions of the great States have undergone during the last few years; you will see what forces they can mobilize; and we think that, with the army we propose, you will acknowledge that France will be by no means in a state inferior to what she was.

## RUSSIAN ARMY.

Russia has, by a ukase dated 4th-16th November, 1870, introduced a new principle into her military institutions, and seeks to alter them; it is not, therefore, very easy to give an exact account of the results of the system she has adopted.

Her object is to borrow from local and reserve troops, hitherto intended for service in the interior of the country, and the instruction of recruits, a sufficient number of cadres to form the reserve of infantry and foot artillery.

The young men of each contingent selected by lot for incorporation serve from 21 to 36 years, namely, seven years under the colours, and eight years in the reserve.

Lastly, with regard to the entire male population capable of bearing arms, and estimated at four millions, it is thought that Russia can put a force of two million of men on foot, several years, however, appear requisite to attain this result, but, meantime, the actual constitution of the Russian army is as follows:—

- 1st troops (active or mobile).  
2nd troops (local or reserve).

These are again divided into regulars and irregulars (Cossacks).

The active or mobile troops include the guard and the army of the line; they are intended to take the field at once, and are provided with a material and equipment requisite for this purpose. These troops have no fixed garrison, and may be concentrated anywhere in the Empire, as the government may direct.

The local troops are, in peace time, in permanent garrisons; they are intended to furnish the garrisons of fortresses. They include 80 battalions of reserve infantry, who are chiefly intended for instructing recruits; squadrons and batteries exist for the same purpose.

The irregular troops consist chiefly of cavalry, and a certain number of horse batteries, which are devoted to active or local duties, according to circumstances.

The active army is composed as follows:—

## ACTIVE ARMY—WAR FOOTING.

*Infantry.*

	Officers.	Men.
188 Regiments of Infantry, at 3,397 per regiment .. ..	14,288	624,348
30 Battalions of Rifles, 394 per battalion .. ..	780	27,360
	15,068	651,708
Total Infantry .. ..	666,776	

*Cavalry.*

	Officers and Men.	Horses.
56 Cavalry Regiments—938 men, 633 horses .. ..	52,518	35,448
66 Cavalry Regiments of the Don .. ..	61,454	60,709
Total Cavalry.. ..	113,982	96,157

*Artillery.*

	Men.	Guns.
47 Brigades of Foot Artillery, 4 battalions, 8 guns each	50,055	1,504
18 Brigades of Horse Artillery, ditto .. ..	6,066	144
14 Brigades of Horse Artillery (Cossacks), ditto ..	3,831	112
Total Artillery .. ..	69,952	1,760

*Engineers.*

	Officers.	Men.
11 Battalions of Engineers, 6 Demi-Battalions of Pontonniers .. ..	374	15,245
Total Engineers .. ..		

	Men.	Siege Guns.
Parcs, Artillery, Engineers, Telegraphs, &c. .. ..	23,070	209
Ambulances .. ..	44,070	—

*Grand Total of Troops in First Line.*

Men .. ..	923,419
Horses .. ..	96,157
Guns .. ..	1,968

These troops have, since 1866, been several times assembled in various camps.

**AUSTRIAN ARMY.**

The law of the 5th November, 1868, which has proclaimed universal compulsory service in the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, has fixed the duration of service—

- At 3 years in the regular army;
- 7 years in the reserve;
- 2 years in the Landwehr, for men who enter it after fulfilling their time in the army and reserve;
- 12 years in the landwehr for men who enter it directly.

The men named for the reserve substitutes may, until the age of 30, be placed in the ranks.

The war strength of the permanent army has been fixed at 800,000 men for ten years, not including the frontier troops, who amount to 45,135.

In case of war the landwehr may be used to aid the regular army; it is composed of 170 battalions and 67 squadrons, forming an effective of 192,674 men.

So that, leaving out the reserve substitutes kept to fill up any vacancies in the active army, and disregarding the landsturm, the total force that Austro-Hungary can mobilise is—

	Men.
Army.. .. .	800,000
Frontier troops .. .. .	45,135
Landwehr .. .. .	192,671
	<hr/>
Total .. .. .	1,037,706
	<hr/>

The countries representing the Reichsrath furnish—

For the army .. .. .	470,368
For the landwehr .. .. .	101,929

Hungary furnishes—

For the army .. .. .	329,632
For the landwehr .. .. .	90,742

#### GERMAN ARMY.

When the military law receives its full development in the countries annexed to the North German Confederation and in South Germany, the army of the German Empire will include 18 corps and a half, composed each of 41,000 men on the active or mobile list, and 40 to 43,000 depôt or garrison troops, or a total of 1,517,000 men. These 18 corps already exist.

#### ITALIAN ARMY.

When the new military law comes completely into operation, which it will do in 1874-75, the total force of Italy will be 750,000 men.

First line .. .. .	350,000
Provincial militia .. .. .	200,000
Substitute troops in military districts	200,000
	<hr/>
Total .. .. .	750,000
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Lastly, if you will take into account the deduction which must always be made from the army, and which cannot be avoided, you will arrive at the number of what are termed the normal non-combatants.

That is to say, the category of military men who do not figure on the field of battle amounts to 90,000 men; then you must add the army of occupation in Algiers, about 40,000 men (66,000 have been asked for 1872). Lastly, actual deductions from the number under arms, which are about 36,000 men, or a total of 166,000 men, who appear on the estimates, but who cannot be counted amongst the troops disposable for defence.

These men are—

1st.—NORMAL NON-COMBATANTS.

1. Staff of Fortresses .. .. .	620
2. Departmental Police .. .. .	19,403
3. Fusiliers and Pioneers of discipline companies .. .. .	739
4. Cavalry School .. .. .	162
5. Riding School men .. .. .	200
6. Veterinary Surgeons and men in charge of Remount } Establishments .. .. .	4,104
7. Artillery Workmen .. .. .	2,116
8. Workmen of Train of Equipages .. .. .	544
9. Chaplains, Surgeons, Apothecaries, Army and Garrison } Chaplains, Interpreters, Officers of Administration, of } Intendance, Clothing, Camp Equipment, Harness, sub- } sistence, and Hospitals, and Military Prisons .. } 10. Military Workmen, Clerks, Butchers, and Bakers.. .. .	3,135
11. Hospital Corps .. .. .	6,124
12. Supernumeraries, such as Armourers, Boot Makers, } Saddlers, Smiths, &c. .. .. .	7,527
13. Effectives absolutely requisite in time of war (old sol- } diers) for training recruits.. .. .	15,762
	30,044
Total .. .. .	<u>90,480</u>

2nd.—MEN NOT AVAILABLE FOR HOME DEFENCE.

Army of Occupation in Algiers .. .. .	<u>40,000</u>
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3rd.—MEN TO BE ACTUALLY DEDUCTED AS A PERMANENT LOSS FROM THE RANKS.

1. Sick .. .. .	16,617
2. Men on leave .. .. .	8,000
3. On Command, in Workshops, Recruiting Establishments, &c. ..	3,555
4. Under Punishment .. .. .	5,775
5. Men intended for Baggage Guard, Muleteers, &c... .. .	2,000
Grand Total .. .. .	<u>166,427</u>

Under the proposed law the actual number of normal non-combatants may be reduced by using the men classed as fit for duty with the auxiliary services.

We recall these facts, gentlemen, in order that truth may come clearly to light and nothing be kept in the dark.

France should know what she rests on when the number of men borne on the estimates is calculated, and what, without any deception, is at her disposal.

But, gentlemen, it is requisite that we should tell you not only the number of men that the application of our law will put at the disposal of the country, we have also to point out the amount of instruction and military education that these men will acquire, in order that you may estimate what will be the value of the permanent organized force that it will offer.

That, it must be remembered, is the first portion of the problem. Thus, although we are only discussing the law of recruiting, and your Committee proposes hereafter to deal with the organization of the army and the constitution of its cadres, yet we would not completely fulfil our task if we did not show you that while the entire class will be passed through the ranks it is possible, while keeping the effective strength within reasonable limits, to have, on the one hand, a sufficient number of men trained completely as soldiers, and, on the other, to give a certain amount of military instruction to those who, remaining a shorter time in the army, may be sent on furlough, and yet held at the disposal of the military authorities.

Various arrangements may be made for this purpose, for it is possible, having incorporated a sufficient number of young soldiers, to send a large or smaller number on furlough, when they shall have been trained for the various arms of the service, according to the wants of the army, and by this means to alter the number of men kept with the colours. This was what was done by the law of 1832, by which the first portion of the contingent only was incorporated; when it was considered requisite to instruct a larger number of young soldiers, it was customary to limit the service to four years.\*

But whatever system he adopted, it is evident that the first thing to be done is to determine the effective strength that the country wishes to preserve under the colours, since that of course must be the basis of all calculations.

To be able to place before you the results of the project which we submit, and to make you understand in some measure its mechanism, we must then fix this amount.

This we obtain from the proposals made to the Assembly by the Government which in our opinion fixes the numbers at a figure far from too large, deductions being made as already referred to.

464,000 men, including the gendarmerie, have been asked by the Government for the year 1872.

Taking this number, then, as a point of departure for the explanation we propose to give as to the composition of the regular army, such as will on one of many hypotheses result from the action of our law, we will assume that each year 15,000 "volunteers for a year," clothed, equipped, and kept at their own cost, will come forward;

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\* "When," said Marshal Niel, "we think of war, it is requisite to instruct a larger number of soldiers. What have we done? we have limited the service to four years, and we have embodied the men of the young reserve (that is to say, the second portion of the contingent,) in the army, so that there is not in the army any man who is not completely instructed."

this number will doubtless not appear too great, when you remember that the substitution and exonerations have been every year 23,000 on a contingent of 100,000, and in 1859, upon a contingent of 140,000 men, the figure rose to 42,000.

Doubtless the diplomas and examinations required will not allow all the young men, who, under existing regulations, seek substitutes, to be admitted as volunteers for a year; this, we need not say, is what we wish; but allowing for the progress of instruction which the excitement to industry the new law will doubtless produce, we think the number of 15,000 on a total of 150,000 is not too large to assume, as the number who are likely to fulfil the conditions required by this kind of engagement.

Lastly, remember that the permanent portion of the army includes now 120,000 men; and let us see what, under these conditions, will result from the possible combinations of our law, and what results it will give.

With 150,000 young men enrolled, of whom 15,000 will be volunteers for one year, the number to be borne on the estimate will be 135,000 men.

If out of these 135,000 young soldiers the Minister for War determines on keeping 75,000 on an average four years with the colours, there remains 60,000 who need give only one year to their instruction. We arrive thus at the total number of the army without counting the volunteers for one year, or the men on furlough.

1st year .. .. .	135,000
2nd „ . . . . .	72,000*
3rd „ . . . . .	69,840*
4th „ . . . . .	68,440*
	<hr/>
	345,280
Add permanent portion..	120,000
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Total .. .. .	465,280 men
	<hr/>

Such will be the portion paid for by the State; all being effective and without any deductions except those foreseen, which is not likely.

If we add to this number 15,000 volunteers of a year, that is to say, young men capable of acquiring a sufficient military instruction, we arrive at a total of 480,000 men.

In addition to which the men sent away at the end of the fourth year, forming still a portion of the regular army, amount to 67,080, that is to say, a real total of 547,000 men, 465,000 only being paid for by the estimates.

But this is not all. The regular army still has other volunteers for a year, viz., those who have completed the year for which they have engaged.

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\* That is, 75,000 men, deducting 4, 3, and 2 per cent. per year.



It has, in addition, the men who after one year of service are placed at the disposal of the regular army, and at the orders of the Minister for War. The volunteers for one year, deducting the 15,000 already included, number 57,190, and are young men well instructed, who have at least warrants as non-commissioned officers. The men at the disposal of the regular army number 220,000, so that the total number becomes 824,000 men.

However, to understand clearly the number that may be put in line by this organisation, we must, as already pointed out, deduct from these 824,000 men, the youngest class, or 150,000 men. The active army will therefore consist of—

The permanent portion which does not recruit by enrolment, and composing the cadres .. .. .	120,000
Soldiers of 2, 3, 4, and 5 years' service ..	277,000
Men at the disposal of the War Minister, who have served one year .. ..	220,000
Volunteers for a year .. .. .	57,000
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>674,000</b>

So far as the reserve of the army is concerned, it offers conditions still more favourable, for out of 510,000 men 255,000 will have served five years with the colours, 202,000 will have served one year and 53,000 will be volunteers for a year.

Thus, to repel invasion, France, without counting the territorial army, will dispose, as we have already said, of 653,000 men trained to the profession of arms, 110,000 having, as volunteers for one year, obtained warrants as non-commissioned officers, and 422,000 possessing an instruction sufficient to bring to the army when incorporated the elements of a real force.\*

\* Table showing the Effective of the Army in the foregoing hypothesis :—

					Volunteers for a Year.	At the disposal of the Military Authorities.	General Total.
Regular Army.	}	Permanent portion ... ..	120,000	...	...	} 824,720	
		1st year ... ..	135,000	15,000	...		
		2nd year ... ..	72,000	14,700	57,000		
		3rd year ... ..	69,000	14,410	55,430		
		4th year ... ..	68,000	14,130	54,310		
	5th year on furlough ... ..	465,280	13,850	53,230			
	Total ... ..	532,360	72,090	220,270			
Reserve	}	1st year ... ..	63,710	13,570	52,170	} 510,380	
		2nd year ... ..	64,530	13,300	51,170		
		3rd year ... ..	63,110	13,030	50,110		
		4th year ... ..	61,880	12,770	49,110		
	Total ... ..	255,190	52,670	202,520	1,335,100		
Deduct the last class enrolled as not being taught .. .. .					...	...	150,000
<b>Remain .. .. .</b>					...	...	<b>1,185,000</b>

We do not conceal from ourselves that amongst the volunteers for a year, a certain number of young men are intended for civil careers, neither do we conceal the fact that the deductions which we have foreseen may be exceeded, that a portion of the army must be employed in instructing the last class enrolled, although it may be possible to reduce this number. But this must occur with every system. But as a set off, there are many young men whose services have been dispensed with, or have been classed for the auxiliary services, and in case of invasion, we repeat, these men would be found very valuable.

But, gentlemen, the combination which we lay before you in order that you may see the working of the law is by no means the most favourable for its execution. As we have not taken into account that by sending men on leave a much larger number of young men may be prepared. We have not taken into account "overslaughts," or sending men back in anticipation, or in short all that must be allowed to give elasticity to a law of recruiting, and modify the number of men with the colours; these things will produce a considerable effect.

If you refer to a discussion that took place in 1869, when an examination was made to determine what would be the result of the legislation actually in force on the service of men with their corps, you will observe that it was acknowledged and declared that this period would be much shorter than that fixed by the law.\*

If this idea of three years' actual service with the colours be applied, and a deduction be made for the last class enrolled, at the end of five years' service in the army and four in the reserve, the state of affairs would be as follows:—

*In the Regular Army.*

100,000	men having 2 years' service.
288,160	„ having 3 years' service.
120,000	„ permanent portion of the army.
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508,160	

*In the Reserve.*

358,050	men who have served 3 years with the colours.
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866,210	
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Add at the disposal of the Military Authorities—

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\* In 1869, when the law on the contingent was under discussion, a note was sent to the Committee by Marshal Niel to the following effect:—The service counts doubtless from the 1st July, but the contingent is not called until after the 1st October, when the harvest is collected; in addition to which the men are generally sent home before the expiration of the prescribed time. And when it is added that those who serve with zeal and are not bad shots have leave of from 6 to 7 months before their period of service expires, it must be acknowledged that a good soldier need be absent from his family in time of peace for a period of barely three years.

57,090 Volunteers for a year having a warrant as non-commissioned officers  
109,470 who have passed one year in the army.

*In Reserve.*

52,670 Volunteers for a year.  
99,660 men who have served for one year.

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318,890

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1,185,110 Grand Total.

It is evident that the number of men who receive a complete military education, may perhaps be higher than we have shown, and consequently the number of men who receive only one year's instruction may be much diminished.

If, in the application of the new law for the length of service with the effective strength of corps, the data given in 1869 be admitted, the number of men entirely trained to the profession of arms will be much increased both for the regular army and its reserve, which the law deems will bring into the ranks a very powerful contingent.

These, however, are arrangements of detail, which it is the province of the Government to make; they doubtless will each year become more simple, according as the military education of the country extends, and the standard of education generally is raised. Full latitude must be given to the Government in these particulars.\*

So far as the special arms are concerned, it is sufficient to see the proportion in which the decision of the effective strength of the army is made, to be convinced that with all possible combinations their recruitment will always be completely assured; doubtless the proportions between the various arms will be modified, but whatever it may be there will be no difficulty in adjusting matters.†

\* We are well aware of the fact that the incorporation of a greater number of men will increase the cost of the first outfit and kit. This, for a foot soldier, costs 5*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*; if, then, in place of incorporating 90,000 men you incorporate 135,000, an excess of 251,250*l.* is caused. But on the other hand, on account of their incorporation not taking place so soon as provided for, which is always the case, and also by sending well taught men away before the expiration of the year, this expense may be more than covered.

† By the estimate of 1872 the following is the strength of the various Corps:—

Number of men in excess of the strength of Corps	..	7,000
Infantry	.. .. .	298,200
Cavalry	.. .. .	60,000
Artillery	.. .. .	45,000
Engineers	.. .. .	9,000
Military Train	.. .. .	8,000
Troops of the Administration	.. .. .	8,000
Total	.. .. .	435,200
Departmental Gendarmerie..	.. .. .	23,000
Republican Guard of Paris ..	.. .. .	6,166
Total	.. .. .	<u>464,366</u>

The presence of all the healthy young men of each class coming either into corps to remain there the time required by the wants of the various arms of the service, or in battalions or schools of instruction to acquire a certain amount of military knowledge, and form habits of discipline will make the army a great school where each will learn the duties of a soldier before exercising the rights of a citizen.

Lastly, thanks to the classification, according to profession and aptitude of all the young men forming a portion of the army, or its reserve, it will be a vast cadre, in which, when requisite, all men placed according to their capacity, may render great service to the State.

From the point of view of the constitution itself of the army, the project that we submit to you offers to the country guarantees as important and greater than those that flow from existing legislation.

But you should know that we have been governed by other considerations than those connected with the army. We think a military law is a social institution from which may flow important reforms in our customs, in our habits, and in our legislation.

Thus, gentlemen, the return to the principle of universal compulsory military service, *the return* we advisedly say for this principle was what 80 years ago we possessed, other nations borrowed it when we abandoned it; to return to the principle of compulsory service, to mix up in the army all ranks of society, will raise at once not only the military character, but also, what is more important, the character of the citizen.

It will give our army all the elements of a powerful organisation, with solidly formed cadres; it will cause a large number of young men, who have received a sufficient military instruction to enter the ranks, and when they are required will have ready a reserve already instructed. It will offer to all those intended for a civil career, or who have furnished the proofs of having acquired military instruction by useful labour, the means of pursuing important studies without liberating them from their debt to the country.

These are the results which we hope the law we submit to you will produce. The idea which has continually directed us, you are aware, is the state of the country.

Doubtless, when you look at the map of Europe; when you think of the dangers to which we are exposed, we must, notwithstanding our misfortunes, strive to prevent the disturbance of a certain equilibrium too much to our detriment; this we must seek by the constitution of our military force, and strive to put the country in a state to resist invasion. It will not be free otherwise; to attain this object what we have suggested appears sufficient.

Gentlemen, in any case there is no other means to resist the evil which threatens us, the breaking up of the elements which compose our society.

There is no other means to animate every heart with patriotism to inspire ideas of discipline and feelings of devotion in every mind; lastly, to tighten the bonds which unite all the children of this France, now so cruelly tried.

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## BILL ON THE RECRUITING OF THE ARMY.

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### CHAPTER I.

#### GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

*As proposed by the Committee.*      *Alterations made by the Assembly.*

#### CHAPTER I.

#### GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

##### *Article 1.*

Every Frenchman owes personal military service to his country.

##### *Article 2.*

In the French Army there is neither bounty in money nor any payment for engagement.

##### *Article 3.*

All Frenchmen not declared unfit for all military service, may be called on from 20 to 40 years of age, to form a portion of the regular army or its reserves, as laid down by this law.

##### *Article 4.*

Substitution is suppressed. Dis-  
pensations from service as laid down  
in the law do not give a complete  
liberation.

##### *Article 5.*

Men with the colours are not  
allowed to vote.

##### *Article 6.*

All bodies of men organized and  
under arms are under military law,  
form a portion of the army, and  
report either to the Minister of War  
or to the Minister of Marine.

*As proposed by the Committee.*

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

*Article 7.*

No one is admitted into the French Army who is not a Frenchman.

The following are excluded from military service, and have no right to serve in the army.

1. Those who have been condemned to corporal or degrading punishment.
2. Those who have been condemned to two years' imprisonment, and have in addition been placed by the court under the surveillance of the chief police, and interdicted in whole or in part from the exercise of civil municipal or family rights.

CHAPTER II.

*Enrolments.*

FIRST SECTION.

*Enumeration and Drawing Lots.*

*Article 8.*

Every year a table showing the number of young men having completed 20 years of age during the preceding year, and domiciled in the canton will be drawn up by the Maires :—

1. Upon the declarations that the young men, their parents, or guardians, are bound to make.
2. Upon the registers of the civil departments of the State, and other documents and information.

These tables will show in a column of remarks the profession of each young man whose name appears thereon.

These tables are published and placarded in each township according to the forms prescribed in Articles 63 and 64 of the Civil Code.

The last publication must be not later than the 15th January.

A public notice on the same form indicates the place and day where the aforesaid table will be examined,

*As proposed by the Committee.*

and by means of the ballot a number will be assigned to each young man whose name is therein entered.

*Alterations made by the Assembly.**Article 9.*

~~Individuals born in France whose parents are foreigners and who are admitted to the benefit of Article 9 of the Civil Code, will in the cantons where they are domiciled draw lots at the ballot next following the declaration they have in accordance with the aforesaid article made.~~

Individuals declared Frenchmen in virtue of the 1st Article of the law of the 7th February 1851, will similarly draw lots in the canton where they are domiciled, at the ballot following their coming of age, if meantime they have not under the law just quoted claimed their rights as foreigners.

Both are only subject to the obligations of military service of the class to which from their age they belong.

*Individuals born in France whose parents are foreigners, and those born abroad, or of foreigners naturalized in France, and those who may not be of age when their parents are naturalized, will draw lots at the ballot following the declaration made by them in accordance with Article 9 of the Civil Code, and Article 2 of the law of the 7th February, 1851.*

*Article 10.*

The following are held to be legally domiciled in the canton :—

1. Young men although emancipated, employed, or living elsewhere, expatriated, absent, or in a state of imprisonment, if their father, mother, or guardian, has their domicile in one of the townships of the canton, or if their father expatriated had his domicile in one of the said townships.
2. Young men married, whose father, or failing the father, whose mother is domiciled in the canton, unless they show that their true domicile is in some other canton.
3. Young men married and domiciled in the canton even if their father and mother are not domiciled there.
4. Young men born and living in the canton, who have neither father, mother, nor guardian.

*As proposed by the Committee.*

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

5. All young men living in the canton not included in the above classes, and who give no proof that they are inscribed in another canton.

*Article 11.*

The following are considered as being of the proper age, by public consent : all young men who cannot and do not produce before the ballot an extract from the registers of the Civil State, proving them to be of a different age, or who failing the registers cannot, or have not proved their ages in accordance with Article 46 of the Civil Code.

*Article 12.*

If in the tables of enumeration, or in the ballot of previous years, young men have been left out, they are to be entered on the table of enumeration of the class which is enrolled after the discovery of the omission, provided they have not completed 30 years of age, when the table is closed. After that age they are included with the class to which they properly belong.

*Article 13.*

When there are several townships in the canton the examination of the table of enumeration and the drawing of lots is to take place at the chief town of the canton in public, in presence of the Sub-Prefect, assisted by the Maires of the canton.

In those townships which form one or several cantons the Sub-Prefect is helped by the Maire and his assistants.

The table is read aloud. The young men, their parents, or those having cause to speak are heard. The Sub-Prefect decides after having taken the advice of the Maires. The table is then corrected, if requisite, and finally determined on and signed.

Where the canton is composed of •



*As proposed by the Committee.*

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

several communes the order in which they are called is determined by lot.

*Article 14.*

The Sub-Prefect will write at the top the names of the young men who come under Article 60 of this law.

The first numbers will be given to them as a matter of right.

These numbers are in consequence taken out of the urn before the drawing begins.

*Article 15.*

Before drawing lots the Sub-Prefect will publicly count the numbers and place them in an urn after having ascertained that the numbers correspond with the young men who are to draw lots ; he will then state that he has done so. Each young man will be called as his name stands on the list and will draw a number from the urn, which will be read aloud and entered opposite his name.

The relations of those that are not present, or failing them, the Maire of the township will draw for them.

Once the lots are drawn no alterations can be made ; on no pretext can it be recommenced, and each man will keep the number he has drawn or that has been drawn for him.

A list following the order of numbers is prepared as the numbers are drawn, and opposite the names will be entered the causes of exemption or dispensation that the young men, their relations, or the Maire of the townships propose to bring before the Council of Revision, referred to in Article 28.

The Sub-Prefect adds any remarks he may think fit.

The list is then read, approved, and signed in the same way as the table of enumeration, and attached to that table ; is published and posted up in each township in the canton.

*Insert here—*

*Young men who may be left out, will be at once entered on the list provided with supplementary numbers, and draw lots to determine their places on the recruiting list.*

*As proposed by the Committee.*      *Alterations made by the Assembly.*

SECOND SECTION.

*Exemptions, Dispensations, and  
Overslaughs.*

*Article 16.*

Young men whose infirmity makes them unfitted for all active or auxiliary service in the army are exempted from military service.

*Article 17.*

The services of the following with the regular army are dispensed with:—

1. The eldest of a family having lost both father and mother.
2. The only son, or the eldest son, or failing the son or the son-in-law, the only grandson, or the eldest grandson of a woman actually a widow, or of a blind father who is in his 70th year.

*Insert—  
Or a woman whose husband has  
been declared legally absent.*

In the cases referred to in the previous paragraphs the younger brother will enjoy the same privileges if his elder brother is blind or afflicted with any infirmity which is incurable and makes him impotent.

3. The eldest of two brothers who draw lots at the same time if the younger is fit for service.
4. He who has a brother in the regular army.
5. The brother of any man killed on active service, or who has been discharged or given a pension for injuries received in the execution of his duty, or on account of ill health acquired either in the army or navy.

The dispensations granted by paragraphs 5 and 6 will be applicable to only one brother for one case, but they may be granted to the same family as often as the same circumstances recur.

The young man who neglects to come forward, either by himself or his representative, at the drawing of

*As proposed by the Committee.*

the lots of the class to which he belongs cannot claim a dispensation as pointed out by the present article unless the causes of dispensation occur after the closing of the lists.

The causes of these dispensations ought, in order that the dispensation may be allowed, exist the day the Council of Revision is called on to decide.

Those which occur between the decision of the Council of Revision and the 1st July, the day from which the service of each class dates, do not alter the legal position of the young men composing the class.

Nevertheless, the recruit who, after the decision of the Council of Revision, either on the 1st July becomes the eldest of a family without father or mother, the only or the eldest son failing, the son, the son-in-law, the only grandson or the eldest grandson of a widow, or a blind father may, if he demands it after one year's service in the ranks, be sent home and kept at the disposition of the military authorities until the period of his service be completed.

*Article 18.*

Young men who, when the Council of Revision meets, have not the requisite height of 5 feet  $0\frac{1}{2}$  inch or are thought too weak for duty under arms may be sent home for two years, at the end of which time they must be again examined.

The young men, unless specially authorized, are bound to appear before the Council of Revision of the Canton which has sent them back.

After the final examination, they are classed, and those of these young men who are considered fit for service, either in the Army or in some auxiliary branch of the Army, must then fulfil the obligations of the class to which they belong.

*Article 19.*

The following are conditionally dispensed from military service:

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

*Insert—*

*Or a woman whose husband has been legally declared absent.*

*As proposed by the Committee.*

1. ~~The pupils of the Ecole Polytechnique, the Ecole called des Jeunes de Langues, the Ecole des Chartres, and the Ecole Forestière, provided that they pass 10 years partly in those schools, partly in the public service.~~
2. ~~The members of the public educational establishments, the upper Normal School at Paris, who engage to spend 10 years in teaching, and have been accepted by the Council of the University before the period fixed for drawing lots.~~
3. ~~Similarly the professors of the National Institutions for the Deaf and Dumb.~~
4. ~~The members and the novices of the religious associations who devote themselves to teaching, and are recognized by the law; also those that are acknowledged to be of public advantage and have entered into the same engagement as in the former cases.~~
5. ~~Young men who being placed in the circumstances foreseen by the 79th Article of the Law of the 15th March, 1850, and by the 18th Article of the Law of the 10th April, 1867, may contract similar engagements.~~
6. ~~Ecclesiastical pupils selected for this purpose by either the Archbishops or Bishops, and the young men authorized to continue their studies to devote themselves to the Ministry in any of the worships paid by the State. Under the condition that they are bound to perform their military service, if they cease to follow these professions and have not entered holy orders or been consecrated before they are 26 years of age.~~

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

*The pupils of the Ecole Polytechnique and the Ecole Forestière are considered as serving under the colours while at those schools.*

*The law on Army Organization referred to in Article 45 of the Law will determine how the young men who pass out of these schools and do not enter the Army or Navy, shall be employed, whether in "waiting," or in the Reserve, or in the Territorial Army, or in the Auxiliary Services. The pupils at both these schools who do not pass the final examination, shall follow the lot of the class they by age belong to, the time spent at these schools being deducted from the total service required by Article 36 of this Law.*

*Article 20.*

~~Members of the public instruction and the young men who, without~~

*As proposed by the Committee.*

~~belonging to the religious associations mentioned in paragraph 4 of the preceding article, nevertheless come under the cases provided for by Article 79 of the Law of the 15th March, 1850, or by the Article 18 of the Law of the 10th March, 1867, and who have contracted an engagement to devote themselves for 10 years to instruction are bound to pass one year in the ranks or in some military school selected by the Minister for War. This year may, however, be counted as one of the 10.~~

*Alterations made by the Assembly.**Conditional Dispensations from Military Service are granted to—*

1. *Members of the Public Educational Establishments, pupils of the Higher Normal School of Paris who have engaged to devote themselves to education for 10 years, and who have been accepted by the Rector of the Academy before the ballot, and who fulfil the engagement.*
2. *Professors in the National Institutions for Deaf and Dumb and Blind, under the same conditions as the former class.*
3. *Artists who have carried off the great prizes of the Institutes, on condition that they fulfil all their duties to the State and spend at the School at Rome the proper number of years.*
4. *Pupils of the School of Oriental Languages, and pupils of the School of Maps, provided they agree to spend 10 years in these schools or in the Public Service.*
5. *Members and novices of the religious societies devoted to education, authorized by the law, or acknowledged to be of public utility, the directors, masters, or assistants of lay schools which fulfil these same conditions, provided, both have, prior to the ballot, made an agreement before the Rector of the Academy to teach for 10 years and fulfil that engagement.*
6. *Young men who are not embraced in the above classes, but who are in the situations provided for by Article 79 of the law of the 15th March, 1850, and Article 18 of the law of the 10th April, 1867, and have, prior to the ballot, formed the same engagement before the Rector.*

*The engagement to teach for 10 years must be fulfilled by the tutors and assistant tutors, both in the Public Schools as well as the Free Schools named by the Minister of Public Education, in accordance with the advice of the Departmental Council.*

*As proposed by the Committee.*

*Article 21.*

~~Young men belonging to the service, either of the Army or Navy, by a voluntary engagement, by a warrant or commission, and the young sailors whose names are borne on the registers of the naval conscription, in conformity with the rules laid down by Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, of the Law of the 3rd Brumaire Year IV, as well as the young men named by Article 19, who cease to be in the position laid down by the aforesaid article, before accomplishing the conditions imposed on them are bound,—1st. To make a declaration of the circumstances before the Maire of the township in the year when their circumstances have altered, by the cessation of their service, duty, or study, and to take away a copy of their declaration.~~

~~2nd. To serve in the Army the time laid down by this law, and to form a portion of the reserve as laid down for the class to which they belong.~~

~~Failing to make such a declaration and submit it to the inspection of the Prefect of the department within one month, they will be liable to be punished in accordance with Article 60 of this Law.~~

~~They join the first class, entering the ranks on the 1st July following the date when their duty, service, or study ceased.~~

~~The time that elapses between such cessation and the date of their declaration is not to count in the service required by this law.~~

~~It is to be understood that the~~

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

7. Pupils selected by the Archbishops or Bishops, and young men authorized to continue their studies, to devote themselves to be Ministers of any worship paid by the State, provided that they complete their Military Service if they drop the studies for which they have received a dispensation, or if at 26 years of age, the first have not entered Holy Orders and the latter been consecrated.

*Young men belonging to the Army or Navy, either by a Warrant or Commission, and who quit the Service; young sailors whose names are borne on the register of the naval conscription in conformity with the rules laid down in Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 of the law 25th October, 1795 (3rd Brumaire Year IV), and who erase their names from the lists; young men described in Article 19, who cease to be in the position therein described before completing the conditions imposed on them are bound—*

*1st. To make a declaration to that effect before the Maire of the Commune within two months, and take away a copy of that declaration.*

*As proposed by the Committee.*

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

number of years that any Frenchman passes in the service of the State either in the naval conscription, by young men attached to the Army or Navy in virtue of a ~~voluntary engagement~~ or commission, is to be always deducted from the number of years they should spend in the ranks.

*Omit 'voluntary engagement,' insert 'Warrant.'*

*Article 22.*

Young men selected by the Municipal Councils of the Commune where they are domiciled may receive provisional dispensations, if they are *bond fide* supporters of families.

The names of these young men are presented to the Council of Revision by the Maire.

Dispensations may be granted by departments to the extent of 4 per cent. of the number of young men reported as fit for the service, and included in the first portion of the canton lists.

Every year the Maire of each Commune will report to the Council of Revision the situation of the young men who have obtained dispensations during previous years as supporters of families.

*Article 23.*

In time of peace overslaughes may be given to young men who, prior to the drawing of the lots, have asked for them ~~from the Municipal Council of the Commune where they are domiciled.~~

*Omit 'from the' to 'domiciled.'*

In order that these overslaughes may be granted, the young men must prove that either on account of their being apprentices, or on account of their engagement in agriculture, industry, or commerce, on their own, or their parents, account, such overslaughes are really indispensable.

*These overslaughes give no right to exemption or dispensation. They are granted for one year, and may be renewed for a second year.*

*A young man who gets an overslaugh must keep the number he has drawn and must fulfil all the obligations imposed on him by that number.*

*As proposed by the Committee.*

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

*Article 24.*

These demands for overslaughes are sent to the Maire of each Commune; the Municipal Council gives its opinion; they are forwarded to the Council of Revision, and sent in duplicate to the Sub-Prefect, who, having added his observations, sends them to the Prefect, with all the requisite documents. Overslaughes to the extent of 4 per cent. of each class may be granted to the whole department, the percentage to be calculated on the number of young men fit for service in the class and included in the first portion of the cantonal recruiting lists.

*who expresses his opinion.*

*Article 25.*

~~The overslaughes is granted for only one year, but it may be renewed twice afterwards; after which the young man must fulfil the obligations of the class to which he belongs, and pass at least one year in the regular army.~~

*Article 26.*

*Article 25.*

Young men who receive dispensations from serving in the regular army according to Article 17 of this Law, young men dispensed with as being supporters of families, as well as the young men to whom overslaughes are granted, may, by an order of the Minister, undergo certain drills.

When causes for dispensations or overslaughes cease, they are then treated as the remainder of the class to which they belong.

*Article 27.*

*Article 26.*

Young men whose services with the regular army in accordance with Article 17, young men dispensed with as being supporters of families, as well as those who have obtained overslaughes, may in case of war be called on as other men of their class.

The military authorities dispose



*As proposed by the Committee.*

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

of them then according to the requirements of the different arms.

~~They may, however, be exceptionally left in the state in which prior decisions placed them.~~

### THIRD SECTION.

#### *Councils of Revisions and Lists of Cantonal Recruiting.*

##### *Article 27.*

The operations of recruiting is reviewed ; the appeals to which these operations give rise are heard ; the causes of exemption and dispensation provided for by Articles 16, 17, and 20 of this Law, are decided in public by a Revising Council composed of:—

President.

The Prefect, or failing the Prefect, the General Secretary or Councillor of the Prefecture, delegated for that purpose by the Prefect.

A Councillor of the Prefecture, named by the Prefect ; and a member of the General Council of the department other than the representative elected in the canton where the revision takes place : both named by the Permanent Council-General in accordance with Article 82 of the Law of the 10th August, 1871.

A General or Field Officer named by the military authorities.

A Member of the Intendance, the Commandant of the Recruiting Depôt, a Military Surgeon, or failing him, a Civil Surgeon selected by the military authorities, will also assist at the operation of the Council of Revision.

The Member of the Intendance is heard on behalf of the law when he asks, and can enter his observations on the register of the deliberations.

The Council of Revision moves from one canton to another, but if locally convenient the Prefect may exceptionally unite in the same place several cantons for the operations of the Council.

*As proposed by the Committee.*

The Sub-Prefect or the functionary by whom he would be replaced is present at the meetings of the Council of Revision held in his arrondissement. He gives his opinion.

The Maires of the Communes to which the young men called before the Council are present at the meetings and may be heard.

*Article 28.*

The young men whose names are borne on the census table are summoned, examined, and heard by the Council of Revision. They may then state the arm in which they wish to serve.

If they are absent or unrepresented, or have obtained no delay, their case is dealt with as if they were present.

In case of exemption for infirmity ~~experts are consulted.~~

The cases of claims for dispensations are judged on the production of authoritative documents, or failing such, documents on certificates signed by those fathers of families domiciled in the same canton whose sons have been enrolled.

These certificates must also be signed and approved by the Maire of the Commune of the complainant.

*Article 29.*

When the young men whose names are borne on the census tables have made appeals, the admission or rejection of which depends on the decision of judicial questions relative to their state and their civil rights, the Council of Revision adjourns its decision, or only gives a conditional decision.

The questions are judged in concert with the Prefect, at the request of those who are most anxious; the tribunals decide without delay and the Minister is informed of it.

*Article 30.*

Except in the cases referred to by the previous Article the decisions of the Council of Revision are defi-

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

*Add—*

*If on account of absence the Council of Revision consists of only four members, it may deliberate, but the President has no casting vote. A decision must be given by their votes, if they are divided the Council must adjourn.*

*the Council only decides after hearing the Surgeon who assists them.*

*Brothers may exchange numbers.*

*As proposed by the Committee.*

nite; they may however be impugned before the Council of State for incompetence or exceeding their powers.

They may also be impugned by the Minister of War and in the interest of the law; nevertheless the persons affected will profit by their being annulled.

*Alterations made by the Assembly.**Article 31.*

After the Council of Revision has decided on the cases for exemption and dispensations, as well as upon all the consequent appeals, the cantonal recruiting list is definitely signed and completed by the Council of Revision.

This list is divided into five parts, viz. :—

1. In the order of the numbers drawn all the young men declared fit for military service and who are not classed in the following categories.
2. All the young men dispensed with under Article 17 of this Law.
3. All the young men provisionally dispensed with in virtue of Article 20, as well as the young men connected with the army by a voluntary engagement, a warrant or a commission, and the enrolled young sailors.
4. Young men who on account of their want of height have received dispensations for service in the regular army, but who are fit for duty with the auxiliary branches of the army.
5. Lastly, young men who have been sent back to be a second time brought before the Council of Revision.

*Article 32.*

When the recruiting lists of all the cantons of the department have been completed in conformity with the regulations of the preceding Article, the Council of Revision, to which is added two members of the General Council, nominated by the

*As proposed by the Committee.*

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

Permanent Committee, will assemble at the chief town of the department and pronounce on the applications for dispensations on the grounds that the men are supporters of families, and upon the demands for overslaughts.

#### FOURTH SECTION.

##### *Registration Lists.*

###### *Article 33.*

A registry is kept in each department, or in the divisions of each department, in virtue of an order of the public administration.

This registry is drawn up by means of the lists just referred to (Article 31), and on it will be borne the names of all the young men not unfit for any military service, or who have not been sent back for a new examination by the Council of Revision.

This register will have entered on it the date of the incorporation of each recruit, or the position in which he is left, and also in succession all the changes which take place in his state until he enters the territorial army.

###### *Article 34.*

Every man entered on the register who changes his domicile is bound to give notice to the Maire of the Commune that he leaves and the Maire of the place he goes to.

The Maire of each of these Communes transmits within eight days a copy of the said declaration to the registry office of the district in which the commune is situated.

###### *Article 35.*

Every man entered on the register who wishes to reside in a foreign country is bound in his declaration to the Maire of the Commune where he lives to make known the place he is going to, and so soon as he arrives to inform the consular agent of France.

*As proposed by the Committee.*

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

The Maire of the Commune within 8 days sends a copy of this declaration to the registry office of the district in which the commune is situated.

The consular agent within 8 days sends a copy of this declaration to the Minister of War.

### CHAPTER III.

#### *Military Service.*

##### *Article 36.*

Every Frenchman not declared unfit for all military service will serve in the regular army for 5 years, in the reserve of the regular army for 4 years ; in the territorial army for 5 years, in the reserve of the territorial army for 6 years.

1. The regular army is composed, in addition to the men who are not recruited by enrolment, of all the young men declared fit for one of the services of the army and included in the five last classes enrolled.
2. The reserve of the regular army is composed of all the men declared fit for any of the services of the army, and embraced in the four classes enrolled immediately before those serving in the regular army.
3. The territorial army is composed of all the men who have completed the period of service prescribed for the regular army and the reserve.
4. The reserve of the territorial army is composed of all the men who have completed the period of service for this army.

*Insert last.*

The territorial army and the second reserve are formed by districts fixed by a decree of the public administration.

They embrace for each region the men detailed in paragraphs 3 and 4 who are domiciled in the region.

*As proposed by the Committee.*

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

*Article 37.*

The navy and the corps of marines are composed in addition to the men furnished by the maritime inscription :—

1. Of the men engaged voluntarily or re-engaged on conditions fixed by an order of the public administration.
2. Of young men who when the Council of Revision sits, shall apply for service in the navy or in one of its corps, and shall be accepted as fit for the duty.
3. Lastly, and failing the number of men included in the previous categories being sufficient, of the portion of the contingent detailed by the Minister of War for the navy ~~or its corps.~~

~~This contingent is drawn in each canton from the young men first on the list, and in the proportion fixed by the wants of the service.~~

~~Exchange before incorporation is authorised between the young men of the same class selected for the army and navy.~~

~~For men who do not belong to the naval enrolment the period of service is five years, and two years in the reserve.~~

~~These men then pass into the territorial army.~~

*The contingent furnished by each canton in the proportion fixed by that decision is composed of the young men included in the first portion of the Canton Recruiting List and who have drawn the first numbers*

*A decision of the Administration will fix the conditions under which exchanges between the young men detailed for the Army and Navy may be made.*

*For men who do not belong to the Naval conscription the period of service in the Navy is five years, in the Reserve 2 years.*

*After which the men pass into the territorial army.*

*Article 38.*

Length of service counts from the the 1st July of the year when lots are drawn.

Each year, on the 30th of June, in peace time, soldiers who have completed their period of service in the reserve of the regular army, those who have completed the period of service prescribed for the territorial army, lastly those who have completed the period of service for the reserve of this army, receive a certificate which states—

For the first, their transfer into the first reserve.

*As proposed by the Committee.*

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

For the second, their transfer into the territorial army.

For the third, their transfer into the second reserve ; at the expiration of their time of service in this reserve the men receive their final discharge.

In war time they will receive their discharge so soon as the men of the class who replace them shall arrive.

*The last paragraph is applicable at all times to men composing the crews of ships in commission.*

*Article 39.*

All the young men of the class enrolled who are not exempted on account of infirmities, or are not dispensed with under the provisions of this law, or who do not obtain overslaughts, or are not detailed for the navy, form a portion of the regular army, and are placed at the disposition of the Minister for War.

These young soldiers are all enrolled in the various corps of the army, and sent to the various corps or to battalions and schools of instruction.

*Article 40.*

After one year of service, young soldiers in the conditions previously specified are no longer kept with the colours, the number retained being that fixed each year by the Minister for War.

They are taken in the order of the numbers drawn upon the first portion of the recruiting list of each canton, and in the proportion fixed by the ministerial decision ; this decision is given as soon as possible after the completion of the recruiting operations.

*Article 41.*

Notwithstanding the regulations of the previous article, the soldier, although included in the category of those who are only to remain one year with the colours, but who does not know how to read or write, and does not pass the examinations required by the Minister for War, may be kept for a second year with his corps.

The soldier placed in the same

*As proposed by the Committee.*

category, who, by instruction acquired previously to his entry into the service, fulfils all the required conditions, may after six months at the periods fixed by the War Minister and before the expiration of the year, be sent home on furlough in accordance with the following article.

*Article 42.*

Young men who having served the period of service prescribed in Articles 40 and 41 are not kept with the colours, remain at the disposal of the regular army, and may be sent on furlough until recalled by the War Minister.

They may, by order of the Minister, take part in reviews and drills.

*Article 43.*

Men sent into the reserve of the regular army remain registered as prescribed by the law on organization.

The recall of the reserve of the regular army may take place in a distinct and independent manner, both for the army and navy; it may be made by classes, beginning with the youngest.

The men of the reserve of the regular army are liable to take part in two manœuvres during their reserve service.

The length of these manœuvres must not exceed four weeks.

*Article 44.*

Men at the disposal of the regular army and reserve men may marry without leave.

But married men are liable to all the duties exacted from the classes to which they belong.

But men at the disposition of the regular army who are the fathers of four living children pass by right into the territorial army.

*Article 45.*

Special laws will determine the basis of the organization of the regular army, the territorial army, and their reserves.

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*



*As proposed by the Committee.*

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

CHAPTER IV.

*On engagements, Re-engagements,  
and Conditional Engagements for  
one year.*

FIRST SECTION.

*Engagements.*

*Article 46.*

Every Frenchman may voluntarily engage on the following conditions :

The Volunteer must—

1. If he engages to serve in the navy be 16 years' old, in which case he need not be of the height prescribed by the law. But if he is 18 years of age, he must be of the required height.
2. If he engages in the army, he must be 5 feet 0½ inch in height, and be 18 years of age.
3. He must know how to read and write.
4. Must be possessed of civil rights.
5. Neither married nor a widower with children.
6. Must have a certificate of good conduct from the Maire of the Commune he last lived in, and if he has not resided a year in that commune he must have a certificate from the Maire of the Commune he previously lived in.

The certificate must contain a description of the young man who wishes to engage, and a statement of the time he has lived in the commune, and must state that he is in the enjoyment of civil rights. That he has never been punished for theft, roguery, deception, or offences against morals.

If the volunteer is less than 20 years of age he must obtain the approval of his father, mother, or guardian.

This last may be given by the authority of a family counsel.

The requisite conditions as regards military fitness for the different

*As proposed by the Committee.*      *Alterations made by the Assembly.*  
 branches of the army, are fixed by a decree inserted in the "Bulletin des Lois,"

*Article 47.*

The length of engagement is for five years.

This period of service counts in the length of military service fixed by Article 36.

In case of war all Frenchmen who have finished the period of service prescribed for the regular army and its reserve, are allowed to engage in the regular army for the duration of the war.

This engagement does not give dispensations as provided in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Article 17 of the present law.

*Article 48.*

Men who after fulfilling the conditions of Articles 40 and 41 of this Law, are about to be sent on furlough, may be allowed to remain in the army so as to complete five years' service.

Men sent on furlough may also be allowed to complete five years' service in the ranks.

*Article 49.*

Volunteers allowed to remain in the regular army, as well as those in waiting, who have been allowed to complete five years' service in the regular army, cannot be sent on furlough without their consent.

*Article 50.*

Voluntary engagements are contracted as prescribed by Articles 34 to 44 of the Civil Code, before the Maires of the chief places in the cantons.

The conditions as to length of engagement are entered on these forms.

The other conditions are read to the persons forming these engagements, before signature, and the fact

*As proposed by the Committee.*      *Alterations made by the Assembly.*  
of this having been done is entered on the face of the document, otherwise it is void.

SECOND SECTION.

*Re-engagements.*

*Article 51.*

Men may be allowed to re-engage *Two years at least and not exceeding five years.*  
~~for one year, not exceeding two.~~

Re-engagements can only take place during the last year of service with the colours.

They are renewable until 29 years of age for corporals and privates, and until ~~32~~ years of age for sergeants. 35.

The other conditions are fixed by a regulation inserted on the "Bulletin of Lois."

Re-engagement after 5 years' service with the colours gives a right to high pay.

*Article 52.*

Engagements referred to in Article 48 of this law may be formed before the Intendants and Sous Intendants, on the form directed in Article 51. Upon presenting which the engaged or re-engaged man may enter or remain in the corps for which he engages or re-engages.

THIRD SECTION.

*Conditional Engagements for one Year.*

*Article 53.*

Young men who have obtained the degree of Bachelors of Letters or Sciences, ~~and who have begun their university studies and have taken honours.~~

Those who belong to the central school of industry and commerce, to the schools of arts and trades, to the schools of the fine arts, the musical institution, or may have been

*As proposed by the Committee.*

declared admissible to these schools; pupils of the veterinary schools, the schools of agriculture, are allowed before the lots are drawn when they bring certificates issued by authorities named in the "Bulletin of Lois," ~~and after an examination fixed by the War Minister~~ to form engagements for one year as provided for in the said regulation.

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

*Out pupils of the School of Mines, the School of Ponts et Chaussées, the School of Naval Engineers, pupils of the School of Mines at Saint Etienne are allowed . . .*

*for one year in the Army.*

*Article 54.*

~~In addition to those detailed in the previous article, a number to be fixed each year by the Minister for War who pass the examinations required may be admitted to form such engagements.~~

*In addition to the young men referred to in the previous Article those who pass the examinations required in the various programmes prepared by the Minister for War and approved by decrees of the Public Administration, may contract similar engagements.*

*These decrees must be inserted in the "Bulletin des Lois."*

*The number of conditional engagements for a year is fixed each year by the Minister for each Department in proportion to the contingent.*

*Article 55.*

*The Volunteer for a year is clothed, mounted, and fed at his own cost. But the War Minister may exempt in part, or altogether from this charge, young men who, in their examination, give proofs of capacity, and who show according to prescribed rules that they have not the means of meeting this cost.*

*Article 56.*

~~The volunteer for a year is clothed, mounted, equipped, and fed at his own cost.~~

*The volunteer for a year is enrolled.*

He is liable to all duties imposed on men in the ranks.

He must pass the examinations fixed by the War Minister.

If after a year of service he does not pass the examinations he is obliged to remain for a second year as determined by this law.

*If after a second year he cannot pass the required examination he is deprived of the advantages reserved for a volunteer for one year, and is submitted to the same obligation as the men belonging to the same class.*

*As proposed by the Committee.*

In any case if war breaks out he is kept in the service.

The time the volunteer for a year serves counts in the length of service required by Article 36 of this law.

*Article 57.*

During the year which precedes the enrolment of their class, the young men enumerated in Article 53 who have not completed their studies in the faculties or schools to which they belong, but who wish to complete them in a definite period of time, may, while contracting an engagement for one year, obtain by military authority an overslaugh to prevent their joining the corps to which they belong. This overslaugh must not extend beyond 23 years of age.

~~*Article 58.*~~

~~In time of war all engagements for a year are suspended.~~

*Article 58.*

After the volunteers for a year have passed the examination required by law, they may obtain warrants as non-commissioned officers or commissions equivalent at least thereto.

Special laws referred to in Article 46 will determine the employment of the young men either in waiting, in the reserve of the regular army, or in the territorial army in the various services to which their studies have specially destined them.

## CHAPTER V.

### *Penal Regulations.*

*Article 59.*

Every man borne on the register who does not make the declarations relative to change of domicile, prescribed by Articles 34 and 35 of this law, is referred to the ordinary tribunals, and may be fined from 8s. 4d. to 8l. 6s. 8d.; he may be also imprisoned from fifteen days to three months. In time of war these penalties are doubled.

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

*In case of mobilization the volunteer for one year is dealt with precisely as the class to which he belongs.*

*As proposed by the Committee.*      *Alterations made by the Assembly.*

*Article 60.*

Any fraud or trick, causing the name of any individual to be omitted from the census tables, or the lists for the ballot, are to be referred to the ordinary tribunals and punished by imprisonment for from one month to one year.

The following are referred to the same tribunals and liable to the same punishment:—

1. Young men who being enrolled shall on account of fraudulent collusion fail to appear before the Councils for Revision.
2. Young men who by means of fraud or trick cause themselves to be exempted by the Councils of Revision, the accomplices in such crimes are liable to similar punishments.

If young men whose names have been left out have been condemned as authors or accomplices in frauds or tricks the regulations of Article 14 will refer to them at the first drawing of lots which takes place on the termination of their punishment.

Any young man improperly exempted will be placed on the list with the first number.

*Article 61.*

Every man borne on the register to whom an order to march has been duly notified, and who does not arrive at his destination within one month of the day fixed by that order, is, after the expiration of a second month, punished as insubordinate with imprisonment of from one to twelve months in time of peace, and two to five years in time of war.

At the termination of this punishment he is to be sent to a discipline company.

In time of war the names of insubordinate men are posted in all the communes of the canton where they live, and remain so posted during the war.

*In the latter case.*

*As proposed by the Committee.*

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

These regulations are also applicable to all volunteers who, without legitimate cause, do not reach their destination at the period fixed by their routes.

In case of absence from their domicile, the order to march is sent to the Maire of the Commune where the recruit has drawn lots.

So far as recruits are concerned the delay of one month is increased to two months if the recruit is domiciled in Algiers, in the islands or counties near France, or in Europe. It is extended to six months in all other parts of the world.

Insubordinate men are tried by Court Martial in the military division where they are arrested.

The time during which the volunteer or the man borne on the register shall have been absent, is not to be included in his period of service.

*Article 62.*

Whosoever is guilty of having concealed, or taken into his employ, a man guilty of insubordination is punishable with imprisonment not exceeding six months; according to circumstance this punishment may be commuted into a fine of 16s. 8d. to 8l. 6s.

Whosoever helps the escape of an insubordinate man is liable to an imprisonment of one month to one year.

Those who by culpable tricks prevent the departure of young soldiers are liable to the same punishment.

If this crime has been accompanied by riotous conduct the punishment will be doubled.

If the accused is a public functionary employed by the Government or the Minister of any creed paid by the State, he may on conviction be imprisoned for two years, and in addition be fined a sum not exceeding 80l.

*As proposed by the Committee.*      *Alterations made by the Assembly.*

*Article 63.*

Any man convicted of tampering with his health so as to make him unfit, either temporarily or permanently, for military service with the view of evading the provisions of this law is sent before the Civil Court by the Council of Revision, and may be punished with imprisonment for from one month to one year.

Those guilty of the same crime during the period of closing the lists of the canton and joining their corps are liable to the same punishment.

On the completion of their punishment, both are placed at the disposal of the Minister for War, and may be sent to a discipline company.

Accomplices are also liable to the same punishment ~~in addition to fines of 8*l.* to 80*l.*, and in addition to heavier punishments which may be inflicted by the penal code.~~

If the accomplices are Doctors, Surgeons, Health Officers, or Apothecaries, the punishment will be from two months to two years.

*In addition to fines of 8*l.* to 80*l.*, and in addition to heavier punishments awarded by the civil code.*

*Article 64.*

The periods spent in prison do not count as a portion of the service.

*Article 65.*

Any military or civil functionary who, under any pretext whatsoever, shall authorise or allow exemptions, dispensations, or exclusions other than those provided for by this law, or who arbitrarily shall extend the length or relax the rules or conditions of enrolments, engagements, or re-engagements, shall be guilty of an abuse of authority and liable to be punished as directed in Article 185 of the Criminal Code, in addition to any more severe punishment directed by the code in other cases.



*As proposed by the Committee.*

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

*Article 66.*

Doctors, Surgeons, Health Officers, who are called on by Councils of Revision to give their opinion conformably with Articles 16, 18, 20, and shall receive bribes or give promises to be favourable to young men who they may examine are liable to imprisonment for two months to two years.

They are liable to this punishment whether the bribes and promises may have been given before they have been asked to assist the council or whether they have been given after they have been so asked.

They are equally forbidden to receive anything, even for an exemption or discharge legally pronounced.

*Article 67.*

*Punishments provided in Articles 60-62, 63, for certain acts, are applicable to those who attempt to commit them.*

*In the cases referred to in Article 66, those who offer bribes or promises of bribes are punishable in the same way as those who receive them.*

*Article 68.*

In every case not provided for in the foregoing articles, the civil and military tribunals, within the limit of their jurisdiction, shall apply the criminal law to such crimes as may be committed in carrying out this law.

In all cases when imprisonment is awarded under this law, the judges may, according to circumstances, deal with the case as prescribed in Article 463 of the Criminal Code.

*Special Arrangements.*

*Article 69.*

Young men enrolled in the army under this law shall, in addition to the instruction requisite for their military duty, receive such other instruction as shall be prescribed by the Minister of War.

*As proposed by the Committee.*      *Alterations made by the Assembly.*

*Article 70.*

*The Minister of War and of the Navy shall insure, by regulation, to men of all arms of the service the freedom requisite to attend Divine Service on Sunday, and any religious festivals held sacred by the creed they hold, these regulations to be inserted in the "Bulletin des Lois."*

*Article 71.*

Every man who has passed 12 years under the colours, four at least with the rank of Serjeant, shall receive a certificate from the commanding officer of his corps, which confers on him the right to receive (in proportion to the vacancies that occur) some civil or military employment suitable for his qualifications and education.

A special law will enumerate the employments in each department of of the State which shall be altogether or in part reserved for candidates with the aforesaid certificates.

*Article 72.*

No one can be admitted before 30 years of age to a civil or military employment who has not fulfilled the conditions imposed by this law.

*Article 73.*

*The War Minister shall, before the 31st March of each year, furnish a statement to the National Assembly, of the working of the law during the previous year.*

*Temporary Arrangements.*

*Article 74.*

The provisions of this law shall be applicable to the regular army, beginning on the 1st January, 1873.

Nevertheless, the whole class enrolled in 1871 shall be put at the disposal of the Minister for War, and young men not belonging to the contingent selected by the Minister

*As proposed by the Committee.*

shall be placed in the reserve of the army in place of the National Guard Mobile, as provided for by the law of the 1st February, 1868.

~~Young men now included in the National Guard Mobile will also be included in the reserve of the army.~~

~~Lastly, soldiers of the reserve formed in conformity with the 30th Article of the Law of the 21st March, 1832, modified by the law of the 1st February, 1868.~~

~~Both will remain in the reserve until they are 29 years old.~~

~~They then will be transferred to the territorial army in conformity with Article 37 of this Law.~~

*Article 73.*

~~Men belonging to the classes enrolled under the law of the 21st March, 1832, who have not been included in the contingents furnished by their classes, and would have been included in the National Guard Mobile under the law of the 1st February, 1868, are to be borne on the lists of the reserve of the regular army until 29 years of age, and then shall, in conformity with Article 37 of this law, be transferred to the territorial army.~~

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

*And will remain there a period equal to the service performed in the regular army and its reserve by the men of the same class included in the contingent, after which both will be transferred to the territorial army in accordance with the arrangements of Article 36 of this law.*

*Length of service for the class of 1871 will count from 1st July, 1872, in accordance with the regulations of the law of 1st February, 1868.*

*Young men who have come into the Army beforehand will, in accordance with the decree 5th January, 1871, count their service from 1st January, 1871.*

*Article 75.*

*Young men belonging to the classes of 1867, 1868, 1869, and 1870, enrolled in virtue of the law of the 1st February, 1868, and who have been included in the contingent of the Army, will, on the termination of their service in the reserve, be placed in the territorial army in conformity with Article 36 of this law. Young men of the same classes who have not been included in the contingent and who are now serving in the National Guard "Mobile" shall, on the 1st January, 1873, be placed in the Reserve, where they will remain until the discharge from the service of the young men of the same class, who have been included in the contingent of the Army. They will then, in conformity with Article 36 of the law, be placed in the territorial army.*

*As proposed by the Committee.*

*Alterations made by the Assembly.*

*Article 76.*

*Men of previous classes enrolled under the law of the 31st March, 1832, whether they have or have not served in the Army, will serve in the territorial army and its reserve, in accordance with the disposition of Article 36 of this law, until they shall have reached the age prescribed for discharge from the territorial army and its reserve.*

*The position of the men will be in conformity with Article 15 of the law of the 1st February, 1868, they may be enrolled by classes, beginning with the youngest.*

*A Council of Revision in each district, formed in accordance with Article 16, law 1st February, 1868, will pronounce on claims for exemption on account of infirmity or want of height.*

*Article 77.*

Young men who, in place of belonging to the National Guard Mobile, form a portion of the reserve in conformity with the preceding articles shall be drilled and reviewed as determined by the Minister of War.

*Article 78.*

The obligation to know how to read and write requisite to form a voluntary engagement, or to be sent on furlough after one year's service, shall not be imposed until after the 1st January, 1875.

*Article 79.*

All the provisions of the laws and prior decrees relative to recruiting the army are and will remain cancelled.

---

The subject of volunteers for one year being of great importance, and also one that produced much discussion in the Assembly, the Decrees putting Article 54 in force, and which have been published in the "Moniteur de l'Armée" for the 6th November, 1872, are herewith appended:—

**CONDITIONS FOR CANDIDATES AS VOLUNTEERS FOR  
ONE YEAR.**

THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC,

Referring to the law of the 27th July, 1872, upon the recruiting of the Army:

Referring to Article 54 of that law, relative to the examinations which young men who seek to become volunteers for one year, and who are not included amongst those named in Article 53:

Upon the recommendation of the Minister for War, with the advice of the Council of State,

*Decrees:*

- Art. 1. Young men who desire to form a conditional engagement for one year, under Clause 54 of the law of the 29th July, 1872, must undergo two successive trials before examiners selected by the Minister for War, and chosen amongst farmers, artisans, and men of business, or citizens who have belonged to these professions.
- Art. 2. The first trial consists in writing French from dictation.
- Art. 3. The second trial is a *vivâ voce* public examination. Candidates are classed in three sections—agriculturist, artisans, or business men; each of these classes goes before a different examiner.
- This examination is divided into two portions—  
The first has reference to the subjects on which the candidates should have been instructed in elementary schools.  
The second portion deals with the candidate's theoretical and practical knowledge of the profession he belongs to.
- Art. 4. On the completion of these oral examinations, the examiners in the three sections meet under the presidency of the General Commanding the Department or a Field Officer named by him, to whom is joined a member of the Council-General named by the Council or by the Permanent Commission. A committee is thus formed which draws up the general list of the successful candidates.
- Art. 5. The Minister of War is charged with carrying out this Decree, which will be published in the "Journal Officiel," and inserted in the "Bulletin des Lois."

Given at Versailles, 31st October, 1872.

A. THIERS.

By the President of the Republic,  
The Minister of War,  
E. DE CISSEY.

---

PROGRAMME of the professional examinations to which young men who seek to form an engagement for one year, under Clause 54, 27th July, 1872. Each candidate will be examined according to his profession and special acquirements, in accordance with the following syllabus :—

#### AGRICULTURE.

The various kinds of soils, viewed in an agricultural point of view ; manures, and method of reclaiming land ; climate and seasons, their effect on cultivation ; irrigation ; agricultural implements and tools ; systems of cultivation ; preservation of harvests ; cattle and domestic animals ; agricultural accounts ; markets for the chief agricultural produce of the district.

#### COMMERCE.

The goods forming the special trade of the candidate ; how they are produced ; the employment and the outlay requisite to produce them ; book-keeping ; names of commercial books ; principal operations of trade and banking ; usual forms for a note of hand, a letter of exchange, an order or cheque ; meaning of terms used in trade and banking.

#### MECHANICS.

Nature and properties of the chief materials or metals ; how procured or smelted, and their uses ; implements, engines, machines, or tools that the candidate habitually uses ; description of the method adopted by the candidate in carrying out his own special trade ; description of his trade.







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